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International Economic Forum Held in Davos

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Attends

LD2901125694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1152 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Davos (Switzerland), 29 Jan—Kazakhstan's official position on the problem of nuclear weapons is determined by the agreements that were signed by us, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev stated in an interview given to the ITAR-TASS correspondents. Kazakhstan's head of state is in Davos to take part in the world economic forum that is being held here.

"In December last year Kazakhstan acceded to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons and ratified it," he said. "My official visit to the United States will take place in mid-February and there we will exchange ratification instruments. The Supreme Council of Kazakhstan has also ratified the START I Treaty. True, we did carry out a great deal of work before that." This was completed during the meeting in Moscow of the presidents of Russia, the United States, and Ukraine; and Belarus made a contribution to this, too.

There were several points at issue. "The first was the guarantee by the nuclear states that there will be no nuclear attack on Kazakhstan," Nursultan Nazarbayev continued. "We now have this guarantee, including from China. The second point was that the cost of the enriched uranium in the nuclear warheads should be returned. An agreement on this has been reached with the United States. The third point was economic matters, investment in Kazakhstan, and economic integration with the Western states, including the United States. When agreement was reached on these three issues, we went ahead with the ratification of the treaties on nuclear problems.

The president stressed that "Kazakhstan has never wanted to be a nuclear power, if only because 500 nuclear charges were exploded on the territory of Semipalatinsk Oblast, including 87 in the air and 107 on the surface. Hundreds of thousands of people are still suffering and Kazakhstan was left to face their problem alone. I closed down that test site by decree. From this everyone will understand Kazakhstan's striving to rid itself of these weapons and not have them on its territory."

Chernomyrdin Comments on Reforms

LD2901171294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1615 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Davos January 29 TASS—Russia will not depart from the course of reform. The serious work that has begun in the country will be continued, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in Davos.

Chernomyrdin is in Switzerland to attend the world economic forum that is in progress here.

"Russia will not divert from the path on which its has embarked. Russia will not backtrack because market mechanisms have already been created. But these mechanisms need to be filled with substance. I have already said and I will say it again that we will not lead our country to the point of shock... But we will not be able to do without therapy either," the premier said.

Among the main tasks of the government in 1994 Chernomyrdin named the continuation of efforts to fight inflation in the country.

Views OPEC Ties

LD2901181794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Davos January 29 TASS—Russia is interested in developing cooperation with Europe and other countries of the world, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a news conference in Davos on Saturday [30 January].

Chernomyrdin is in Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum that is in progress here.

"We want to work in the world community and want to join the European Union. We want G-7 to transform into G-8. We want to live and trade on equal terms will all," he said.

Chernomyrdin pointed out that Russia is also interested in boosting contacts with the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Speaking about his meeting with OPEC Secretary-General Subroto of Indonesia to be held on Sunday, the Russian premier stressed that he will "try to discuss the whole spectrum of questions concerning oil extraction and supplies. I can say already now that Russia will not object to the consideration of the question of its joining OPEC."

in a bid to dispel mounting concerns in the West, following recent changes in the Russian government, Chernomyrdin said that Russia will not depart from the course of reform. The serious work that has begun in the country will be continued, he reassured.

"Russia will not divert from the path on which its has embarked. Russia will not backtrack because market mechanisms have already been created. But these mechanisms need to be filled with substance. I have already said and I will say it again that we will not lead our country to the point of shock... But we will not be able to do without therapy either," the premier said.

Among the main tasks of the government in 1994 Chernomyrdin named the continuation of efforts to fight inflation in the country.

Holds News Conference

LD2901214494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1850 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Excerpts] Davos, 29 Jan— Russia will not deviate from its course of reforms. The serious work that has been started in the country will be continued. This was stated today by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian prime minister, speaking at a news conference here. He is in Davos to take part in the world economic forum. [passage omitted]

V. Chernomyrdin said that the fight against inflation is one of the main areas for the government's work in 1994. Last year the task was to knock down the rate of inflation from over 30 percent to 12-15 percent a month. This task was fulfilled. "We should now keep to this level," the Russian prime minister stressed. "The rate of inflation will fluctuate around 20 percent a month in the first half of the year. We will try to bring it down to 15-18 percent by the end of the year." The head of the Russian Government noted the need for the restructuring of industry and of agrarian and other sectors of the economy. According to him, this will play a predominant role. He pointed out that there would not be any control over wages and distribution. The government is raising the question of granting more rights to the regions.

Touching upon the formation of the government, V. Chernomyrdin reported that there were no lengthy talks with the president on cadre reshuffling. This question was discussed in early December and, but for the elections, but for the referendum, the reshuffle would have been carried out last year. "Therefore, there's no need to think things up, everything is going as agreed with the president," he stressed, adding that the reorganization of the government is continuing. [passage omitted]

"Russia has always played and will continue to play a certain role in the world community. Difficult processes which are painful for us are under way in Russia today. We are experiencing difficulties. In order to join the market economy in a real way, to move forward into the world community, we should bring everything into line with the demands of market relations." [passage omitted]

Outlines Plans for Investment Council

LD3001192394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin presented a proposal for a multilateral council of foreign and Russian bankers, investors, and entrepreneurs. He announced this at the world economic forum in Davos. Chernomyrdin believes this council could be convened this May-July in Moscow. Chernomyrdin thinks that Russia can use about $10-12 billion in foreign investments. He emphasized that conditions for foreign investors in Russia is gradually improving.

Addresses Plenary Session

LD3001212294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2059 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, January 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's policy of an in-depth democratic reform of Russian society, the economy and political institutions will be continued with due regard, primarily, for the national and strategic interests of Russia and proceeding from the principles inherent in the new Russian Constitution, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a plenary meeting of the World Economic Forum here on Sunday night.

Touching upon the problem of foreign investments in the Russian economy, Chernomyrdin emphasised that last year had seen no cardinal changes as regards Russia's readiness for cooperation. Inside Russia, conditions for the operation of foreign investors gradually change, albeit too slowly, he said.

Russia can accept and "digest" foreign investments amounting to at least 10,000-12,000 million U.S. dollars a year, not as "aid" but on mutually beneficial commercial terms, Chernomyrdin said.

"We are prepared for joint work in this respect, to set up, in particular, a multilateral council of foreign and Russian bankers, investors, and entrepreneurs and jointly examine investment cooperation possibilities with respect to particular sectors and enterprises," the Russian prime minister said.

Chernomyrdin expressed readiness to participate in the work of such a council, a session which could be held in Moscow in May-June.

In conclusion, the Russian premier voiced hope that the World Economic Forum would promote the understanding of the processes taking place in Russia.

Then he answered questions asked by plenary meeting participants.

January saw a campaign during which Russia was accused of curtailing reforms and the Russian Government was alleged to have a desire to reverse the reform process.

"I would like to state once again: Russia will not turn backwards and will not swerve off the road of reforms. This is guaranteed, primarily, by the Constitution which reflects the realities of a democratic society, democratic Russia. We have the president who is the guarantor of

what we do now. You may rest assured that my government will go ahead with reforms and will not turn off the road," Chernomyrdin said.

Meets Western Leaders in Davos

LD3101091694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0705 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Davos January 31 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin held a series of meetings with representatives of political and business circles of Western countries during his two-day visit to the Swiss resort city of Davos to attend the World Economic Forum

Chernomyrdin met with Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, Swiss federal adviser Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, OPEC Secretary General Subroto, EBRD [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development] directors and managers of a number of major commercials banks.

"We have attained our goal at the talks—there was a thorough and professional discussion of problems and difficulties faced by Russia," Valentin Sergeyev, head of the press service of the Russian Government, told ITAR-TASS. "There is no question of reforms or no reforms on today's agenda. We are for reforms, but the question is how they should be carried out, who should help us and by what means the reforms should be fulfilled," Sergeyev said.

"The forum in Davos was beneficial for all, including the West and Russia, for the general comprehension of problems we are facing today and which might arise tomorrow," Sergeyev said. He pointed out that in the opinion of the Russian delegation, this time the talks were not merely a discussion in character, which shows that a new stage in the comprehension of Russia's problems has begun. "It was not the question of what to do but rather how this should be done that was at issue," Sergeyev said.

"Our cooperation with the West is not merely a declaration, but quite a concrete matter. Earlier, we discussed aid, whereas today, we are speaking about mutually advantageous cooperation, while the word "aid" sounds like nonsense. Today, we are not merely discussing investments, but rather ways in which Russian goods, but not only raw materials, can enter the world market. In short, the Davos forum has risen to a qualitatively new level in its businesslike atmosphere, approaches and expected results," Sergeyev said.

Yeltsin Aide Comments

LD2901233494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2223 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Davos (Switzerland), 30 Jan—All the talk about a change in the reform course in Russia is premature, and in the West it is also too emotional, Dmitriy Ryurikov, the Russian Federation president's adviser on international affairs, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent; Ryurikov is taking part in the World Economic Forum under way here.

"I believe that some statesmen and journalists in the West should deal more with facts and figures, and be more sober and more pragmatic," he said. "The budget has not been announced, nor has the government's program, even the composition of the government has not been finalized, and on the whole it contains the same people. There have been assurances from the president and there have been assurances from the prime minister. What else do you need?"

Ryurikov believes that the main foreign aid to Russia would be the opening of markets to Russian goods. The effectiveness of such a measure was evident last year. If this tendency continues that will be the best aid. As to assistance from international financial bodies, it should be directed at support for specific projects, preferably unconnected with government structures, and, preferably, in the regions.

Russia had and has its place in the world economy, said the president's adviser said. I think that now it must make this place more advantageous, and, by changing itself, change its stand in the world. Precisely this will be the subject at all the talks related to Russia's participation in the Naples G-7 meeting.

Dmitriy Ryurikov considers that the discussions at the Davos forum, in which heads of states, leaders of world business and eminent scientists are participating, are useful. According to him, the forum is useful, it allows to detect the mood of business people and foreign government circles in respect to Russia, permits to find out what interests them in our country. And, in turn, it gives us the opportunity to voice our questions, to talk about our concerns.

Davos Seminar Discusses Russian Economy

LD3101094094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0829 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Davos, Switzerland January 31 TASS—The situation in the Russian economy is not hopeless but there are many difficulties to overcome before seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, according to participants in the seminar on the Russian national economy within the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Representatives of Russia differed greatly in their views on the situation.

Yakov Urinson, first deputy minister of the economy, was optimistic on the whole. He cited his ministry's

forecast, according to which the situation will be held under control in the months to come provided the tough economic policy is maintained, the state budget revenue strengthened and institutional transformations and the privatisation drive continued. This will slow down the slump in 1994, and the gross national product will dwindle by eight per cent as against 12 per cent last year. Urinson spoke in favour of supporting specific groups of population in the hope that stabilisation of social life will be possible this year, as well as an increase in the labour and business activity of the middle class.

There are no political forces in Russia capable of stopping privatisation, the seminar was told by Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays, who is chairman of the State Privatisation Committee. According to Chubays, 70 per cent of shops, stores, restaurants and other enterprises in the same sphere had been privatised by January 1, 1994. He stressed the need for dialogue with the parliament concerning further privatisation. "The bulk of the population supports reforms, and this is the source of my optimism," Chubays stressed.

Although the political situation in Russia in 1993 was very complicated, the market reforms continued, according to ex-finance minister and parliament member Boris Fedorov. He said he viewed as a success the continued deregulation of prices, an end to import subsidies and financial infusions in the Commonwealth member-countries, and the struggle against the budget deficit. "Without these measures the inflation rate could have been much higher," he said. Fedorov announced that the rouble exchange potential against the dollar increased three-fold last year, but this increase was too slow and too painful. The reform objectives were not made quite clear to the people, he said. For all that, he stressed that the term "shock therapy" is not fully applicable to Russia's economic policy. As concerns the short-term perspectives, Fedorov said that recent changes in the policy and playing up to the public were fraught with an economic disaster in the next few months. But in the mid-term, one may reasonably be more optimistic.

According to economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, one of the high- priority tasks is the toughening of control over the inflation rate. He spoke against soft credits and stressed the need for further privatisation, particularly in agriculture. He recommended Western investors to concentrate on Russia's regions. "I am optimistic about the future, but not about this year," Yavlinskiy said.

Uzbek President Comments

LD3001065494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0640 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Davos January 30 TASS—Uzbek President Islam Karimov, currently attending a world economic forum in Switzerland, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS that countries of the former Soviet Union are stronger now than a year ago and seek economic cooperation which might pave the way for resolving political issues.

"The euphoria which all of us experienced in a purely political aspect when everyone advocated sovereignty, is weakening," Karimov said, he pointed out that "political sovereignty appeared to rest on economic issues", adding that economic independence turned out to be more important than the political one and that there was a growing desire to communicate with each other in a purely economic aspect.

Karimov drew particular attention to the situation in Ukraine, pointing out that there were times when this republic occupied a kind of an isolated position. "I think that was a mistake," Karimov said. "Today, we strongly need economic cooperation which will promote the solution of political problems," the Uzbek president said in conclusion.

Tunne Kelam Elected Vice President to CE Assembly

WS2801104194 Tallinn EESTI RINGVAADE in English 28 Jan 94 Vol.4 No.4-2

[Received via Internet BALT-L]

[Text] January 24—The first session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe [CE] met and elected the office holders for the year. The posts of President and of fourteen vice- presidents were filled. Deputy Speaker to the Estonian parliament and leader of the Delegation to the Council of Europe, Mr. Tunne Kelam, was elected to one of the posts of vice president.

Baltic Reaction to Kozyrev Statement on Withdrawal

WS3101111594 Riga DIENA in Latvian 20 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Janis Kulmanis: "Prime Ministers See Danger for the Baltic States"]

[Text] Riga, 19 Jan—The words uttered on Tuesday [18 January] by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev regarding "serious interests" in the former Soviet republics and partial retention of Russian troops in some of those republics have received sharp criticism. During their meeting in Jurmala today, the Baltic prime ministers made a statement concluding that Kozyrev's declaration means that "the very essence of the 'Partnership for Peace' plan proposed by the United States and accepted at the NATO summit in Brussels, as well as the building of new structures for European safety, have become questionable."

The prime ministers voiced the opinion that this "new attitude" toward relations with the Baltic States will complicate the negotiations on Russian withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia. "Such statements by Russia regarding foreign and military policy are aimed directly against the sovereignty of the Baltic states," reads the declaration signed by the Baltic prime ministers. The statement also includes a demand that Russia keep its promise to withdraw its military units from Latvia and Estonia by 31 August 1994.

As was admitted at a press conference by Maris Riekstins, state secretary of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the statements on Tuesday by A. Kozyrev might be regarded as his characteristic style. M. Riekstins recalled the end of 1992, when A. Kozyrev presented a scenario in Stockholm of what would happen if nationalist radicals assumed power in Russia. These statements were later disavowed. M. Riekstins said that the Foreign Ministry is in possession of information about several Russian Foreign Ministry officials who, in expressing their own opinions, have tried to counteract Kozyrev's statement. M. Riekstins assumed that what Kozyrev said was his own view of last week's summit of NATO leaders. It "did not solve the acceptance of different countries in East Europe into this organization." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not in possession of the precise text of Kozyrev's speech; officials will probably have it on Thursday.

Anxiety in connection with A. Kozyrev's speech was also expressed by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, as reported by BNS. "There is an impression that Russia has not resolved to give up its military influence in the Baltic states. It is odd that this statement has been made after the meeting of the presidents of the United States and Russia, and at the same time the new Russian parliament is beginning its work," reads a statement issued by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry. A member of the Lithuanian Seimas [parliament], Romualds Ozols, expressed the view that Lithuania should declare strictly that it does not intend to cooperate with Russia in the military field. Anxiety over Kozyrev's speech was also expressed by the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

Already on Tuesday, an assumption was expressed that the recent conduct of Russia, which contradicts the previous policy towards the Baltic states, might be connected with the latest meeting of the Russian and U.S. presidents, as well as the possible agreement on this question, therefore an official statement from the United States regarding Kozyrev's statement was impatiently awaited. Today, the U.S. State Department declared: "The statement by Minister Kozyrev contradicts what was said at the meeting of the two presidents in Moscow." The statement says that during his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. President Bill Clinton stressed the immediate and complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia. M. Riekstins said at a press conference that the U.S. State Department has requested a formal explanation of A. Kozyrev's speech.

The head of Latvia's delegation to withdrawal negotiations with Russia, Martins Virsis, said at the press conference that it is difficult to foretell how this statement might affect the talks between Latvia and Russia. "If this radical conceptual attitude is maintained, Latvia will apparently be forced to think the whole situation over and possibly change its position." M. Virsis refused further comment on the subject.

Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Kazakh Defense Ministers Meet in Bishkek

LD2801200694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The Defense Ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan held a working meeting in Bishkek on Friday [28 January].

As the Kazakh minister Sagan Nurmukhametov told newsmen after the session, the sides signed a protocol on mutual assistance and on republican resources for their armies' logistic supplies.

He stressed that the meeting least of all meant secession from the CIS Collective Security Treaty. On the contrary, he said, its results will contribute to broader cooperation between the collective security pact members.

As Uzbek Defense Minister Rustam Akhmedov remarked, the consultations pave the way for closer ties between the three Central Asian states in anti-aircraft defense and in other fields. He voiced hope that Russia would join the alliance, since it was interested in reinforcing its southern borders more than any other state.

The Uzbek and Kyrgyz ministers also signed a bilateral cooperation accord for 1994.

Further on Meeting

LD2801210094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] A two-day meeting of the defense ministers from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan has ended today in Bishkek. Our correspondent Aleksandr Knyazev reports.

[Knyazev] The three ministers have signed a protocol on the results of their meeting, which states that full mutual understanding on all issues discussed was achieved. Among these issues are the joint use of the installations and facilities inherited by the sovereign armies from the USSR Armed Forces. In particular, Lieutenant General Akhmedov, the Uzbek defense minister, reported that a decision has finally been found on the use of two training grounds.

The training ground of the Airborne Assault Forces deployed in Andizhan Oblast of Uzbekistan is situated on the territory of Osh Oblast in Kyrgyzstan, and the training center of the Osh-based Motorized Mountain Rifle Division is situated near Andizhan. The regularly-held training exercises of the Uzbek airborne assault forces were often causing serious problems in the relations between the two neighboring republics. Similar problems exist with Kazakhstan.

The ministers have also discussed mutual interaction in the field of arms and equipment supplies, the training of officers and specialists, military transport, and other issues. It was noted that military cooperation between the three countries is not aimed at creating a separate military alliance, but will be carried out within the framework of the CIS Collective Security Treaty of which these three republics are members.

Mashchits' Demotion Signals Change in CIS Policy

MK2901121094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 2

[Leonid Brodskiy report: "First Deputy Minister for CIS Affairs Appointed. Post of Minister Still Vacant"]

[Text] Vladimir Mashchits, former chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation with the CIS Countries, was appointed by government decision yesterday as acting chief of the new Ministry for Cooperation with CIS Member Countries with the rank of first deputy minister.

Vladimir Mashchits is 39 years old. Before his appointment as chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation with the CIS Countries [State Cooperation Committee] he was Russia's authorized representative on the Inter-Republican (later Inter-State) Economic Committee; earlier he worked at the Central Economics and Mathematics Institute.

Vladimir Mashchits' new appointment can be interpreted as follows: the agency he heads is growing, acquiring new functions and objectives, whereas the former State Cooperation Committee chairman himself is unable to keep pace with the expansion.

In fact, figures who not long ago were in charge of Russia's economic relations with the former USSR republics have changed completely. Typically, both Aleksandr Shokhin, recently deputy prime minister and chief supervisor of economic relations with the CIS countries in the Russian Government, and Vladimir Mashchits were relegated to lower rungs of the government hierarchy. In this context it is worth noting that Vladimir Mashchits belongs to the first, "Gaydar" government draft, a fact that could not but influence his effective demotion, although he has never stood out too much.

On the whole, however, there is no doubt that Russian CIS policy will have new guidelines. One may even discern what they will be like to a high degree of certainty. To all appearances, geopolitics will take precedence over economic calculations, and integration—under Russia's aegis and based on resuscitating the ruble zone—will come to the fore.

The Ministry for Cooperation with CIS Member Countries (apparently modeled on the British Ministry of Commonwealth Affairs) has an important role to play because it has been entrusted not only with economic, but also with political functions. And while Vladimir Mashchits performs the duties of an acting minister, a new candidacy is apparently being picked at the political kitchen, a person whose political clout and views should correspond to the new objectives of a new stage in Russia's relations with the former Soviet republics.

[Article includes the following boxed passage]

—The State Committee for Economic Cooperation with the CIS Countries was an agency accumulating proposals from all Russia's economic agencies on the development of cooperation with the former USSR republics. Particular importance in the committee's activity was attached to the credit and financial aspects of the cooperation.

—The Ministry for Cooperation with CIS Member Countries, while retaining all the functions of its predecessor, has also taken over political support for the integration.

Admiral Kasatonov Inspects Fleet, Withdrawal

WS2801152494 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 22 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Captain Second Rank A. Lobskiy: "Admiral I. Kasatonov: 'I Side With These People and I Am Ready To Defend Their Interests'"]

[Text] **A group of officers from the Navy's Joint Chiefs of Staff headed by Admiral Igor Kasatonov, deputy commander of the Russian Navy, has paid a three-day visit to the Baltic Sea Fleet.**

The inspection was aimed at organizing combat, tactical, and command training for the new year, as well as to examine issues connected with the withdrawal of fleet units from the Baltic states.

Summarizing the results of the inspection, Adm. Kasatonov emphasized that the Baltic Sea Fleet positively distinguishes itself among other Russian fleets. The final grade received by the fleet—"good."

Nevertheless, Igor Vladimirovich [Kasatonov] devoted the main part of his speech to an analysis of shortcomings and oversights. After all, as one of the officers pointed out, "Kasatonov would not be Kasatonov if he were less adamant."

In the opinion of the admiral, there are many shortcomings in the organization of command, the headquarters' performance in the development of naval combat tactics is poor, many officers are not sufficiently acquainted with documents regulating their responsibilities, and the work at headquarters is improperly organized.

However, I dare say that the most important part of the inspection on the Baltic Sea Fleet was Kasatonov's visit to the city of Liepaja, where he met with Latvian Navy Commander G. Zeibots. In the course of the meeting, they discussed issues connected with the transfer of Russian Navy facilities to the Lithuanian side. According to Zeibots, the Lithuanians feel resentment toward Russian servicemen who, in his opinion, do not properly prepare the facilities for the transfer, which makes it impossible to use these facilities. As an example, he cited a building in Bolderaja, a suburb of Riga, which had been handed over to Latvia half ruined. Yet, the Russian side refuted such accusations. Providing two Liepaja military schools as an example, they proved that facilities are transferred in suitable conditions, however, following the transfer, they are left completely unprotected which leads to pilferage.

G. Zeibots admitted that such complications really exist, but, he believes that the main problem is the lack of appropriate transfer procedures.

Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility of Russia's using the Liepaja and Riga ship repair yards. The commander of Latvian Navy requested that Adm. Kasatonov sell two signal cannons which are essential for Latvia to conduct protocol ceremonies. According to the former's words, although this issue has already been discussed for more than two years, it has not been resolved.

Assessing the results of the meeting, G. Zeibots noted that in general it was conducted in a business-like, constructive atmosphere. He also emphasized that the complex problems, which appear in connection with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia, are solved more constructively in cooperation with the Russian Navy leadership than the Command of the Army.

The same day, Adm. Igor Kasatonov met with Liepaja administration representatives. Imant Vismins, head of the administration, requested the Russian Navy Command complete the pullback of naval units from Liepaja by 10 May 1994. In his opinion, this is necessary to stabilize the political situation in the city on the eve of municipal elections scheduled for the end of May.

Admiral Kasatonov stated that the deadlines for the withdrawal are defined by a special timetable, which takes into account the capabilities of the railroad system, accessibility of new facilities for moving troops, and coordination of timetables for the withdrawal of Russian troops from other Baltic republics, Germany, and Poland. He also emphasized that the Russian Navy Command may fulfill the request of the Liepaja Administration, if the necessity of doing this is convincibly motivated and the rights of the Russian-speaking population are guaranteed and protected.

Leaders of the trade union committees of the Liepaja Naval Brigade and representatives of veteran organizations who participated in the meeting recalled facts testifying that civilian personnel of Russian military units are discriminated against in terms of housing and certain other issues.

"I entirely side with these people," stated Igor Kasatonov adamantly, "and I am ready to defend their interests."

According to Vismins, the Liepaja branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration is not subordinated to the City Administration. Nevertheless, he promised to apply measures for assuring compliance with Latvian law if it is violated.

Having heard reports by commanders of Russian units deployed at the Liepaja Naval Base and examined the timetable for their withdrawal, the first deputy commander of the Russian Navy noted that the timetable for withdrawal of equipment, property, and personnel had been thoroughly cross-examined and is completely realistic.

In a conversation with a STRAZH BALTIKI correspondent, he agreed that it is possible to complete the pullout of the Liepaja naval brigade by 1 June 1994. The greatest difficulty, which cannot be definitely solved at the moment, is housing for the families of servicemen.

At the same time, Adm. Kasatonov emphasized that the issue of the Navy's withdrawal will be solved in the context of Russian- Lithuanian relations and based on government agreements.

Yesterday, the officers' group headed by Adm. Igor Kasatonov departed for St. Petersburg.

Assesses Baltic Fleet, Other Issues

WS2801140094 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Interview with Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander of the Russian Federation Navy, by A. Lobskiy; place and date not given: "Despite Reductions the Fleet Continues To Develop"]

[Text] [Lobskiy] **Comrade Admiral, how do you assess the results of your work with the Baltic Sea Fleet?**

[Kasatonov] Analogous inspections concerning the course of combat training are currently being conducted on all four Russian fleets. Of course, the situation in the Baltic Sea Fleet has an array of characteristic features, since to meet with those people and inspect units and vessels, one must leave the country and pay visit to countries of the near abroad. However, we did not experience any difficulties; the Latvian authorities facilitated our work.

In general, inspections of units deployed in Kaliningrad Oblast and at the Liepaja Naval Base showed that the Baltic Sea Fleet is well prepared for the new training year, organizational problems have been solved, and methodological issues have been examined. The Baltic Sea Fleet has successfully begun the new training year, and I hope it will end the year the same w[illegible]

I visited the Liepaja submarine brigade, a[illegible]spite the fact that the troops are to leave the base soon, the results of combat training were just brilliant. This happening one more time merely testifies to the fact that the Baltic Sea Fleet, despite all its problems and difficulties, maintains self-control and manageability and efficiently performs tasks of combat training.

[Lobskiy] **Has the Naval Command set any new goals for the Baltic Sea Fleet for the new year?**

[Kasatonov] Of course. In connection with the fact that we have lost many of our Baltic bases, it is necessary to reexamine issues concerning communication, combat training, coordination, and command.

[Lobskiy] **The issue of establishing in Kaliningrad Oblast a unified defense rayon with a joint command, supply system, etc., has been examined for long time. What is the opinion of the Russian Naval Command on this issue?**

[Kasatonov] Great attention has been paid to issues of close cooperation among units of the Navy, Army, and Antiaircraft Defense, in the plans for combat training in 1994. Such work was conducted before. The command of the Russian Navy supports the establishment of a unified structure in the oblast, however, you probably understand that this issue does not fall within our competence.

Returning to the question concerning new tasks, I will point out that the Baltic Sea Fleet will have to establish relations with navies of our former Baltic republics, which are today sovereign states. That is a very important task for the Baltic Sea Fleet. The commanders of these countries' navies also understand the importance of this issue. I met with Latvian Fleet Commander Zeibots, and I must admit that he expressed his willingness to initiate a constructive dialogue between our navies. Certain steps have already been made to establish a system of secure naval traffic, rescue operations, and early warning. The results of this work will be defined by the effectiveness of relations which are currently being established by the Baltic Sea Fleet Command with representatives of the Baltic states' navies. The Russian Naval Command is interested in continuing this work and will render any necessary support.

[Lobskiy] **You visited Latvia and met with representatives of the local authorities, commanders of military units, and workers. What problems should be resolved immediately?**

[Kasatonov] According to reports prepared by commanders of Liepaja garrisons—both our commanders and the Latvians—they have established working relations and jointly solved many problems. The same can be said regarding relations with local authorities. However, certain violations of the rights of Russian-speaking workers and servicemen of the fleet have taken place. We addressed this issue at a meeting with the head of the Liepaja Administration, and he promised to take necessary steps. I will report on this issue to the commander in chief and the Russian Defense Ministry. If this attitude does not change, the Russian Foreign and Defense Ministries will have to apply extraordinary measures.

In general, in my opinion, a wise approach begins to prevail in the position of Baltic states, and I believe that all the problems will be solved at the negotiating table. The Baltic Sea Fleet Command has appropriate experience in this field, and it skillfully conducts its work in this direction. Speaking about Russian-Latvian relations, in my opinion, the Latvian side does not take into account the fact that Russia began to build those seaports and bases as early as the 17th and 18th centuries, and that, for example, Liepaja is closely connected with Russian history. This is the cradle of our submarine fleet. In this century, Russia has also done a lot to develop the infrastructure of these cities and seaports. I hope that these issues will be solved justly and by means of civilized negotiations.

[Lobskiy] **Comrade Admiral, last year, the Russian Federation Government adopted a program for revival of the Russian Navy. Does it include a chapter concerning the Baltic Sea Fleet, and if it does, what is its substance? How will the fleet look on its 300th anniversary?**

[Kasatonov] The military doctrine of our state defines defense tasks for the Navy, as well. Moreover, the importance of the Navy's role in the country's defense system will be increasing, since the number of nuclear warheads and ammunition deployed in the Navy will increase. Whereas the number of the Navy's nuclear warheads currently amounts to 27 percent of the total

number of nuclear warheads, in the future, it will climb to 42-47 percent. Nevertheless, concrete elements of the Navy's development will depend on the results of economic reform. Today, the Navy is not only being reformed and reduced, but it also continues to develop. Recently, several modern battleships have been launched, and on 21 December, I participated in the launching of the newest nuclear submarine, the Severodvinsk.

The Navy continues to conduct its regular cruises, patrols, and visits. Of course, all this is conducted in a different context than it was five or ten years ago. Today, the Navy fulfills appropriate international agreements on early warning of all sorts of incidents, which have been signed with various countries, conducts joint naval exercises, and pays working and official visits. This year, similar activities are to be no less frequent than they were last year.

The concept of naval development in the third millennium is currently being examined, and what is most important, the Russian Government and the highest authorities of our state express their understanding. This allows us to be optimistic as to the future of the Navy.

[Lobskiy] **You know about the problems of the Black Sea Fleet very well. How do you assess the current situation in Sevastopol?**

[Kasatonov] Certain forces have been trying to entangle the Black Sea Fleet in political battles. This is the reason behind its instability, spread of crime, and activation of Mafia structures and nationalist, extremist forces. The murder of Captain First Rank Andrey Lazebnikov, a Russian officer, is the latest evidence of this. Moreover, the situation is not improving, only further deteriorating.

Whereas Russia has proved its ability to solve the problems of the Black Sea Fleet, the other side has shown nothing but ambitions. In accordance with the Massandra agreements, this issue should be solved this year. If we keep waiting, history will never forgive us.

[Lobskiy] **Igor Vladimirovich, during your visit to Liepaja, you discussed the possible sale of scrap metal sunk in Latvian ports. However, the issue remained unresolved. Unfortunately, a great many material resources are being wasted, despite the fact that they can be cashed in today.**

[Kasatonov] Negotiations on property have been proceeding since we started our withdrawal. Today, Lieutenant Colonel Buyanov, a representative of the Central Department of Material Resources within the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, is in charge of these issues. Practically speaking, everybody admits that the current activities are inefficient. However, there are no appropriate legislative acts, government resolutions, or other documents. Apparently, such a situation satisfies somebody.

[Lobskiy] **Is there any hope that the situation will change? After all, the Navy commander has stated that if he had the right to decide about the fate of the remaining property, he would not take a kopek from the state coffers to build housing for servicemen.**

[Kasatonov] We have repeatedly addressed this issue to the Defense Ministry leadership and the government. And we will continue to do so in the future. However, I am not convinced that this issue will be resolved.

[Lobskiy] **What is your opinion of the reform of the personnel service structure?**

[Kasatonov] The defense minister has issued an order in this regard, and, as is known, one must not evaluate orders.

[Lobskiy] **But, even a preliminary examination of this document shows that an array of aspects of such work has been eliminated. For example, there has been no other structure dealing with the social problems of servicemen. Now, these kinds of activities will be reduced if not discontinued.**

[Kasatonov] Yes, such a threat really exists. However, I can say that, in a certain amount of time, maybe a year or half a year, we ourselves will analyze the work of the new structures and submit our conclusions to the defense minister. I am convinced that everything will be taken into account. These structures are to comprise only chief and deputy commanders, therefore, our job will be to help them organize their work and draw conclusions.

[Lobskiy] **Igor Vladimirovich, how would you comment on the results of the recent elections in our country?**

[Kasatonov] Our country has entered on the path of democratic development, which has been confirmed by the results of the elections. Another issue is that we can encounter certain setbacks and obstacles on this path, and they should be reckoned with. I believe that the common sense of our people will prevent any cataclysms.

[Lobskiy] **Comrade Admiral, during the tragic events in Moscow, certain newspapers disseminated a report saying that, on behalf of Rutskoy, you were proposed to take the side of the White House. Was that true?**

[Kasatonov] Nobody came forward with such a proposal to me. Probably, because I instantly declared my position: The president of Russia is the commander in chief. Moreover, it is immoral to solve political problems by means of military battles, as the former leaders of the Supreme Soviet did.

Another important lesson coming from these events is that politicians, civil activists, and authorities should base their activities on the Constitution. Only such a path will safeguard the interests of Russia, its economic growth, and stabilization in society and the Armed Forces. This is a prerequisite for the effective development of the country and its government.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 Jan

LD2901074694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0717 GMT 29 Jan 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 29 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's leading newspapers do not single out any main topic. Commenting on the resignation of the Belarusian parliament speaker, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper writes: "Specialists and politicians will repeatedly examine the results and consequences of Stanislav Shushkevich's resignation.

"But the first conclusion can be drawn even now: The actual omnipotence of one political force has been again regained from this time. The parliamentary majority led by premier Vyacheslav Kebich will not have any more 'a whipping boy' in the face of the former speaker. The party of power headed by the government will be now obliged to assume full responsibility for the republic's future."

The same newspaper deals with the Azeri-Armenian conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh in another article. "While Moscow and Yerevan continue to make conjectures on how Aliyev (Eds: the Azeri president) managed to consolidate the army in such a short period of time, Baku continues to keep mum and is in no hurry to refute reports by some Russian media that Afghan mujahideen make up the core of the renovated army.

"Moscow's insistent call to stop combat operations put a difficult dilemma before the Azeri leader: either to make concessions and agree to talks with the Armenian side, or to ignore the Russian side's diplomatic pressure.

"In the first instance, Aliyev risks to lose support of Azeri population, in another, to force Moscow to look for other methods of pressure on the present Azeri leadership. +

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Aleksandr Dzasokhov, member of the state Duma (lower chamber of the Russian parliament) from North Ossetia, who says: "The state Duma has gathered a motley, and nevertheless, political elite of the Russian state, especially from Moscow.

"If this is the case, it should conduct affairs in a responsible way, as an elite should do. This is especially important, since a democratically elected parliament is being formed for the first time.

"This is the start of a truly multi-party system, and parliament will be responsible for how it will work."

According to the TRUD newspaper, "social tension at mines of the Kuznetsk coal basin has become dangerous from the beginning of the new year. Workers refuse to go to work in some or other mines.

"The reason for such a sitution is not only months-long delays with payment of wages and unfulfilled promises by the government. Lack of funds prevents miners from purchasing the most necessary equipment to carry out mining operations and (what's the most dreadful thing) to ensure labour safety."

The IZVESTIYA newspaper focuses on the rouble's rate. "Relative stability of the rouble over the past few days," the newspaper writes, "gave a brief respite to all money dealers. There is a chance now to cast a retrospective glance and to draw some conclusions.

"The most important of them evidently is that times have passed for good when the government could artificially fix an exchange rate between the rouble and the dollar. The situation is quite different these days: The rate of the national monetary unit is now among the main indicators of the efficiency of the government's activities."

The same newspaper runs an article by state Duma member Vasiliy Lipitskiy advocating an amnesty to members of the state emergency committee and detainees of the Lefortovo prison (eds: members of the State Emergency Committee engineered an abortive state coup in 1991. They are now on trial but released from prison. Lefortovo detainees started a state coup in Moscow in October 1993 and are under investigation now).

"Such an amnesty, in Lipitskiy's opinion, could draw a line under the past and become a step to national reconciliation," the newspaper notes.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper writes about breakdowns and emergencies in the Russian federation last year. "The year 1993 witnessed over 1,200 serious breakdowns and emergencies in Russia, which claimed the life of 1,100 people.

"The unstable social and economic situation in the country indicates that the number of breakdowns, disasters and other emergencies will be at least the same this year," the newspaper notes.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper examines the problem of piratic fishing by foreign ships in Russian territorial waters.

"The solution of the piratic fishing problem faces the following question: Will Russia be a powerful state which will be reckoned with by close and distant neighbours?" asks the newspaper. "The process is reverse for the time being," it adds.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA newspaper carries an interpellation by legislator Vasiliy Starodubtsev advocating the interests of Russian peasants. He notes: "Peasants have no hard currency on their bank accounts as well as villas in California.

"Their homes are here, and they will do their best to survive and to feed urban population. But if, God forbid, hunger strikes any place, the blame will fully rest with Misters Gaydar, Fedorov and other enemies of the Russian countryside.

Carries Review of 'Itogi' for 30 Jan

LD3101081094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0636 GMT 31 Jan 94

["Review of Sunday night television analytical news shows"]

[Text] Moscow January 31 ITAR-TASS—The political crisis in Belarus and presidential elections in the Crimea were in the focus of independent television's Sunday analytical programme ITOGI.

The removal of Stanislav Shushkevich from the post of the Belarussian parliament chairman was an unpleasant surprise for Moscow and quite unexpected by Russian diplomats, according to ITOGI host Yevgeniy Kiselev. He said the removal of Shushkevich "means nothing good for Russian-Belarussian relations".

"Yeltsin has lost reliable ally who unconditionally took his side last October," Kiselev said. "The Belarussian leader was one of the few commonwealth leaders on whose loyalty Yeltsin could always count. Shushkevich's reputation was very high also on the international arena where he was viewed as a reformer and a staunch advocate of the market economy.

A report from Minsk about the events preceding Shushkevich's resignation and reaction to the fact in Russia and other countries cited different views on what happened in Belarus. Belarussian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich disagreed with the allegation that the toppling of Shushkevich was tantamount to a "communist coup". "It was nothing of the kind. All the forces in the pariament remained there and the policy pursued by the parliament will continue to be pursued, Kebich said.

Itogi paid much attention to the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus and the creation of a single rouble zone of these two countries. According to a survey conducted by the public opinion fund, 32 per cent of Russian citizens last week believed that Russia should unify its monetary system with that of Belarus, even if the Russian economy suffers from the move. Fifty per cent of those polled were opposed to the move, and 18 per cent had not yet made up their minds.

As concerns changes in the Russian Government, most Russian voters were "sceptical in their attitude", according to Yevgeniy Kiselev. He proceeded from the results of another poll conducted by the public opinion fund which revealed that 27 per cent of those polled believed the reshuffle would affect negatively the lives of the Russian people. Only 17 per cent believed that the resignations and reshuffles in the government would yield a positive result. Thirty per cent of those polled said the government changes would not affect the life of the population in any way. Twenty-six per cent were uncertain.

"The results of the past two years enable us to say that many tasks in reforming our economy and switching to a market economy have failed to be accomplished," economist Stanislav Shatalin said in an interview with the Ostankino television Sunday programme Voskresenye. "An analysis of the past two years shows that we must re-define guidelines for our social and economic policy," Shatalin said.

"While the past week was critical and most unpleasant in the political career of one of the initiators of the commonwealth, Stanislav Shushkevich who resigned under the insupportable burden of the problems—political and economic—which arose in the wake of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the coming week threatens much unexpected in connection with the same problems to another consignee of the first commonwealth agreement, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk", Kiselev said. Much will depend on the outcome of the second round of the presidential elections in the Crimea, he said. A report from Simferopol made it clear that the pro-Russia Yuriy Meshkov was running well ahead of his rival in the first presidential elections in the peninsula republic contested by Ukraine and Russia.

Itogi recalled that a criminal cases was opened last week against parliament member Vladimir Zhirinovskiy who heads the parliamentary faction of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia. Zhirinovskiy is charged with war propaganda under Article 71 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

First Deputy Chief of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service Lieutenant-General Sergey Stepashin spoke in an interview with Itogi about the aims and tasks of this organisation established on the basis of the former Security Ministry. He said that although the number of the personnel has been cut almost by half, the number of operational, counter-intelligence units remained the same. Asked if the names of KGB informers would be made public, Stepashin said, "We will do everything to prevent it". He explained that all similar services across the world maintained "undercover personnels", "regardless of whether the state is democratic, anti- democratic, communist or any other". Moreover he said it was wrong not to keep the promise of confidence given to former KGB informers, because "it was destroy their lives". The general expressed anxiety about the considerable leaks of nuclear, military and other technologies, as well as about attempts at recruiting Russian researchers and specialists by foreign special services.

Itogi reported on the latest developments in the Vil Mirzayanov's affair—this Russian chemist is now in custody on charges of revealing state secrets relating to the production of new chemical weapons in Russia. The programme reported that Mirzayanov's colleague Vladimir Uglev announced his intention to make public on February 4 the formula of the secret chemical substance unless Vil Mirzayanov was released by that time.

Kozyrev Says China 'Permanent' Foreign Policy Priority

LD2801182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomtic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Relations with China remain "one of the priorities of Russia's foreign policy, moreover, one of the permanent ones," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told his Chinese counterpart Jian Qichen during the Russo-Chinese official negotiations in Beijing, according to INTERFAX's special correspondent, Igor Porshnev, accompanying Kozyrev on his visit to China.

The minister said he could only wish that these talks were "the beginning of the Russo-Chinese relations' transition on to a qualitatively new level of wide-ranging constructive partnership." In his opinion, this partnership should extend to cover not only bilateral cooperation, but also the two countries' approach to solving issues of international importance.

In the course of the negotiations, the two ministers discussed a number of economic issues. Kozyrev pointed out that Russia would like to launch some the joint projects, in particular, the construction of a hydroelectric power station on the river Yangtze. The two sides agreed to use the principle of combined commercial activities on disputed sections of the border as a temporary measure.

The talks also produced an agreement to continue the two countries' military and technical cooperation, strictly observing both their mutual interests and international obligations.

The two sides signed a protocol between the Russian and Chinese foreign ministries and an intergovernmental agreement on the status of checkpoints on the Russo-Chinese border.

Speaking in the Chinese Association of People's Diplomacy after the end of the talks, the Russian foreign minister pointed to "the Asian Pacific region's increasing importance for the future of Russia," connected with the greater economic role played by the Asian part of Russia. This makes the ties with Asian neighbors even more important, as they already account for about one third of Russia's trade turnover.

Kozyrev believes that the system of international relations in the region, as in the whole world, "is gaining a stable multipolar character," while the ideology of regional and global alliances of some Asian Pacific countries against others "is becoming a thing of the past." The future of the region lies not in power competition, but rather in cooperation and interaction, he pointed out. The minister said the principle of stable and balanced relations was the cornerstone of the treaties Russia concluded with all countries of the region. He added that the danger of large-scale armed conflicts in the region had been reduced to a minimum today.

The Russian foreign minister described the XXI century as "a century of the Pacific region," since the Asian Pacific region's economic role would have special importance. Asian countries' international positions will be determined, in the first place, by the extent of their involvement in the region's economic relations. Russia is convinced building up the region's economic potential is of no threat to its neighbors, but instead, it creates the conditions for a dynamic economic growth, the minister pointed out. "Competition in this sphere is a mutually profitable competition which all members of the Asian community need," he added.

After the talks, Kozyrev's political advisor Galina Sidorova said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was likely to pay an official visit to China this year.

It is supposed that the main goal of the prime minister's visit will be preparing a Russo-Chinese summit in Moscow. The Chairman of China's State Council, Jiang Zemin, is expected to come to Russia on an official visit in the third quarter of this year, while Chernomyrdin is likely to visit China this May.

Emphasizes Strategic Relationship

LD2801173494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing January 28 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev wrapped up the Beijing part of his visit to China with meetings with Chinese leaders in Zhongnanhai, where the country's central party and government bodies are located.

"China values its cooperation and good relations with Russia, which were reached at a dear price, and desires that the peoples of the two countries live in harmony from generation to generation", announced Chairman of the Chinese People's Republic Jiang Zemin at his meeting with Kozyrev.

The Chinese leader mentioned the high value of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to China in December 1992, and expressed his satisfaction with the stable development of Russian-Chinese relations, saying they were based on mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit. "The maintenance and expansion of such relations is one of China's permanent policies", Jiang said.

Concerning the trade and economic aspect of Russian-Chinese relations, Premier of the Chinese State Council Li Peng remarked on the great potential for business cooperation between the two countries.

The volume of trade between Russia and China reached 7.6 million U.S. dollars in 1993. This, however, is only four per cent of China's overall import-export turnover. In connection with this, Li called for "joint searches for new ways of cooperating", adding that the Russian and Chinese economies are in many way mutually complementary.

The two sides called for their bilateral relations to be raised to a new, qualitatively higher level. Kozyrev said that, as far as economics goes, relations of constructive cooperation imply a transition to implementing long-range joint projects and other "higher and more stable forms of cooperation".

The Russian foreign minister gave Jiang Zemin a personal letter from Boris Yeltsin with an invitation to pay an official visit to Russia. The earlier-communicated invitation to Li Peng was confirmed and, in his turn, Li invited head of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin to visit Beijing. Chernomyrdin's upcoming visit to China, along with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's expected visit to Moscow, will set the stage for the second Russian-Chinese summit meeting, scheduled to be held in Moscow in the third quarter of this year.

Kozyrev held a press conferrence in Zhingnznhai after his meetings, at which he emphasized the two sides' efforts to develop a cooperative relationship which is of a "strategic, long-range nature, not subject to vacillations".

Answering journalists' repeated questions about Russian-Chinese military cooperation, Kozyrev said he has never hidden the help which the two sides have given each other, this was at least demonstrated by the presence of Russian Deputy Defence Minister General Gromov. "This cooperation is being developed within the framework of friendly relations and overall partnership", he declared.

Later on Friday, Kozyrev, accompanied by Russian regional, district and business leaders, arrived in the "special" free economic zone of Shenzhen in the south of China. The goal of his trip was to become acquainted with this "Chinese laboratory of modern managment", the foreign minister said.

Thanks to economic reforms and its ability to attract foreign investments, Shenzhen has turned into one of the country's largest industrial centres. This experiment is of interest not only for the far eastern regions of Russia, but for the north-west as well. At the same time, Kozyrev stressed, "Russia is not going to copy the experience of any one country. We are only going to take it into account when conducting our own economic reforms".

Tomorrow is the last day of Kozyrev's visit to China, when he will stop over in the ancient Chinese capital of Xian. Afterwards he will return to Russia.

Ends Visit, Departs for Moscow

LD2901123394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1212 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Beijing January 29 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met the leaders of the north-western Chinese province of Shaanxi in the ancient Chinese capital of Xian on Saturday [29 January], the final day of his official visit to China. At the meeting, the sides discussed how to boost bilateral trade and economic relations.

The Russian minister also visited a museum of terracotta figurines made in the epoch of first Chinese emperor Qinshihuang (3d century B.C.) and made a sight-seeing tour of Xian.

During the four-day visit, Kozyrev held talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen. The sides confirmed mutual desire for the development of political, trade, economic and military cooperation, pointing to the need for raising Russian-Chinese relations to a higher level of constructive partnership.

They stressed the importance of cooperation between the two great powers in maintaining stability in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world.

The sides signed two documents on the results of the talks: An intergovernment agreement on check points on the Russian-Chinese border. The agreement will streamline and simplify the inspection and passage regime. They also signed a protocol on political consultations between the Russian and Chinese Foreign Ministries.

Kozyrev had meetings with the country's leaders—the Chinese Republic's Chairman Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng. The Russian minister conveyed a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the head of the Chinese state, containing an invitation to come to Russia on an official visit.

In compliance with an understanding reached during the Russian minister's visit, the second Russian-Chinese summit is planned for the third quarter of this year.

It will be preceded by trips of Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin to Beijing and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to Moscow. Kozyrev also confirmed an invitation to Premier Li Peng to visit Russia.

The Russian foreign minister toured Shenzhen, a special economic zone in the country's south.

Kozyrev departed for home in the evening, local time.

Answers Questions in Moscow

LD3001025194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0100 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 30 January—Russia has gone through the period of inheritance from the Soviet Union which took place in particular when relations between countries underwent so-called complete normalization. At the present time, new relations have been established between Russia and China, they have acquired the nature of normal cooperation without the need for any kind of "further steering together" of the partners. This was stated by Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs, replying to questions put by the ITAR-TASS correspondent on board the aircraft. The Russian minister returned to Moscow last night after an official visit to China.

The minister pointed out the specific spheres of Russian-Chinese bilateral ties, in particular the development of cross-border relations, military-technical, and economic cooperation. At the same time he noted the "extensive field of unused possibilities" that also exists here.

The head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that possibilities exist for "harmonizing" the interests of two great powers, Russia and China, both on a regional as well as on a world level.

Speaking of the prospects for a democratic movement in Russia, Andrey Kozyrev said that he does not think the resignation of Yegor Gaydar was a "necessity." He reported that he was very doubtful about this issue, something which he told Yegor Gaydar in a conversation. "I respect his personal motives, but from the point of view of the correlation of forces following the elections in Russia and the prospects for a democratic movement, I do not think that it was necessary to take such a step, he should have tried to work in the government and to defend his point of view," Andrey Kozyrev said. In his opinion, what was needed was to promote the strengthening of the democrats' position, especially after their relative defeat at the elections.

The minister stressed that the President of Russia is at the present time a uniting force, a guarantor of the reformist transformations, during the implementation of which there are bound to be temporary lapses. Nevertheless, Andrey Kozyrev stressed that the deed had been done and he thinks that this development of events will somehow act as an incentive for the democrats to regroup somewhat.

Sums Up Results of Visit

LD3101102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0953 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shemelev]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—Russia has left behind the vestiges of the Soviet Union's policy, which included also the so-called "full normalisation of Russian-Chinese relations", as well as "the stage of ideological love and hate" between the two countries, according to Andrey Kozyrev.

Russia and China have established new relations characterised by normal cooperation without any "special adjustment" between the partners. The Russian foreign minister said this responding to an ITAR-TASS question on board the airplane which brought him back to Moscow from an official visit to China.

"Our relations now contain elements of geostrategical mutual understanding," Kozyrev said. "We are not working against any third country, or the West, for example. We do not have any anti-Western overtones in our cooperation, but no more do we look back at the West or depend on the West," Kozyrev said. "The two great powers feel the need for interaction relating to an extensive range of questions both on the regional and global scales".

These circumstances enabled Russia to raise the question about constructive partnership with China, and the response of the Chinese leadership to this idea was "very balanced, and positive in principle", Kozyrev said. He expressed confidence that this idea "in one form or another, enriched and mutually filled with specific substance" can be implemented ahead of Chinese leader Jiang Zemin's forthcoming visit to Moscow this year.

Speaking about his impressions from visiting the free-enterprise zone in Shenzhen, Kozyrev called it "very useful" and stressed that reforms in the zone were an example of economic development "Chinese style". It can be seen as part of "great Chinese experience of reforming its economy in a more modern direction". It is obvious that China is "looking for ways of entering the modern world, a world of high technologies and living standards".

But the main thing is for us is to entertain no illusions about the possibility of copying this experience. We tend to idiologise and idealise now Western, now Chinese experience, or vice-versa, Kozyrev said. My visit to Shenzhen showed that neither exists "per se", although there are specific conditions in both places. One can say that Shenzhen is one of the regional versions of the development of Chinese reforms and the conclusions to be drawn from this is that Russia should look for its own versions of economic development applicable in the specific conditions of its own regions.

The minister explained what he meant when referring to China as a country "near abroad". "There are now and can be no countries of the first rank and the second rank. When we speak about the development of ties with one or another country "near abroad" we mean that it is one of the closest neighbouring states and we must have goodneighbourly relations with it. One of the high priorities in the Russian foreign policy has always been the

creation of a belt of goodneighbourliness and cooperation, Kozyrev recalled. "I am seeking to affirm the most direct, and if you will sound sense of the words "West, East, near abroad. The countries "near abroad" are those which are closest to us and with which we need to develop relations as we do with any other state without forgetting that they are our neighbours," Kozyrev said.

As concerns prospects for the democratic movement in Russia, Andrey Kozyrev said he did not see Yegor Gaydar's resignation as a necessity, and had strong doubts on this score. "I respect personal motives, including Gaydar's political ones. Everyone may make some long-term tactical and strategic moves, but from the point of view of the post-election correlation of forces in Russia and prospects for the democratic movement I think he should have tried and worked in the government for some more time and thus affirm his own viewpoint," Kozyrev said. According to him, Gaydar should not have "weakened his democratic potential in the public eyes, especially after the relative defeat in the elections. According to the minister, resignations cannot help strengthen the democratic movement.

Kozyrev stressed that he had sought to help resolve the problem by meeting President Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Yegor Gaydar last Monday on his own initiative as a mediator. He found it strange that Gaydar left the reform team which is effectively headed by Yeltsin. Differences have occurred among other ministers on the presidential team, and it is not always difficult to hold one's own but the president is a uniting force and a guarantor of the reformist character of all changes, he said. Kozyrev pointed out that temporary setbacks were possible, but on the whole it was possible to achieve corrections and stand one's ground. He said it was not advisable to transfer acute questions to the sphere of public and political polemics, but resolve them within the team instead, just as it was and is being done all the time.

Nonetheless, what has been done has been done, and it might somehow stimulate the democrats to re-align forces and draw "very serious conclusions" collectively. It is easier to resign from the government than to make it clear to oneself and society what had really happened in the elections and how we are going to carry on reforms in a democratic and not an authoritarian way. "The version of reforms which relied on, and even exploited the president's popularity and mandate is exhausted," he said. Reformers, who are also democrats, claim, as they do here now, a political role for himself and politicize their activity. But for this they must get a popular mandate in the elections on their own. The past elections did not give them a mandate which could justify their claim to domination in the government. This means they have to learn their lessons and think about the following elections. "I hope the present situation will prompt not only dramatic resignations but also substantial self-analysis," Kozyrev said.

Participation in DPRK Nuclear Program Denied

SK2901140794 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 29 Jan 94

[From the "Today's World" program]

[Text] Moscow has rejected a report that Russia has participated in DPRK's nuclear weapons development project.

(Walentina Korikayev), commentator of this broadcasting station, wrote as follows: The Press and Information Bureau under the Russian Defense Ministry distributed a written refutation. The Japanese weekly SHUKAN BUNSHUN has spread a groundless rumor.

The weekly said that the Center for Military Strategic Analysis at the Russian General Staff under the Russian Defense Ministry prepared the secret report that 160 Russian scholars participated in the DPRK's nuclear program and manufactured nuclear warheads.

The report also said that Nodong No. 1—the medium-range missile for delivery of such warheads—was manufactured with participation of Russian experts.

According to a statement of the Russian Defense Ministry, there is no center for military strategic analysis in the Defense Ministry. There is a research institute for military strategy that belongs to the General Staff. However, the institute has never made such a report. Precisely, everything in the report is false, so one could conclude that the report from Japan is false. Information related to military affairs has been continually distorted.

For example, a rumor is circulating that Russia is attempting to repay loans to the ROK with military technology. The press in Seoul is spreading such a rumor.

The Russian Foreign Ministry stated that it has no official document stipulating that Russia is going to sell ultramodern weapons and to produce them jointly. Russia has no contract to pay loans with military technology.

People think that someone is attempting to drag Russia into complex conditions on the Korean peninsula.

General Staff on 'Hoax'

MK2901100094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report in the "Denial" column: "North Korea Has No Nuclear Bomb. The Publication in SHUKAN BUNSHUN Is Based on a Hoax. There Will Be No Official Investigation in the General Staff"]

[Text] The Japanese weekly SHUKAN BUNSHUN recently printed excerpts from a top secret memorandum by the Center for Military Strategic Analysis at the Russian General Staff, "The Russian Federation Military Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region Under the New Military Political Conditions." The document makes

clear that at the end of the 80's Russia was actively assisting the DPRK in creating a nuclear missile capability, and as a result, now Pyongyang has several nuclear warheads, as well as a considerable number of medium-range missiles. The document is dated 22 October 1993 and was to be presented first to General Grachev and then to President Yeltsin. The Japanese weekly obtained the memorandum from an anonymous officer at the General Staff who also commented on it.

On 27 January IZVESTIYA printed an account of the SHUKAN BUNSHUN publication written by its Tokyo correspondent Sergey Agafonov, who added his comment that "there are no doubts about the authenticity of the document" because it is printed on a Defense Ministry form and has registration number 001 CM-137.

General Staff chief General Mikhail Kolesnikov told SEGODNYA's correspondent that "there has never been a Center for Military Strategic Analysis at the Russian General Staff." The General Staff has a center for military strategic studies but its functions do not include analysis of the military, military-technical or military- industrial potential of foreign countries. That is the jurisdiction of various structures in the General Staff's Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU GSh).

The relevant Russian bodies are surely watching the developments on the Korean Peninsula. General Kolesnikov said that "according to information in our possession, today there are no nuclear weapons in the DPRK. Nor are there any medium-range missiles. The creation of nuclear missiles in the DPRK any time soon is unlikely."

The memorandum published in SHUKAN BUNSHUN, which says something quite different, was indeed printed on a Defense Ministry form, but this kind of form is usually used to respond to citizens' letters, not to report to the defense minister or the president. The index showing that the document is "top secret" (not "absolutely secret," as is stated in Agafonov's article) has been placed other than where it should be. The serial number CM-137 stamped on the memorandum (apparently the main evidence of its authenticity) belongs not to the Defense Ministry but to the former USSR Council of Ministers and naturally has not been used in correspondence since 1991.

After an additional in-house inquiry the General Staff made sure that such a document has not been worked out in any of its structures and therefore it was not reported to General Grachev or President Yeltsin. The General Staff chief is not going to conduct any official investigation into the origin of this hoax.

General Kolesnikov expressed his surprise at the unscrupulousness of SHUKAN BUNSHUN and IZVESTIYA. True, many Moscow journalists (and not only journalists) know that representatives of the Japanese press (unlike, for instance, the Americans) willingly and generously pay for exclusive information and have a special liking for various "documents." Which is exploited by our "specialists."

Army Chief on Missile Document

PM3101090994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Russian Chief of General Staff Describes Piece in Japanese Weekly as 'Nonsense'"]

[Text] Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, Russian Armed Forces chief of general staff, described in conversation with your correspondent a secret report published in the Japanese weekly SHUKAN BUNSHUN and entitled "Russian Federation Military Policy in the Asian-Pacific Region in the New Military-Political Conditions" (IZVESTIYA No. 16) as "utter nonsense from beginning to end."

"The references to General Staff issue numbers, the publication date of the document, and the Defense Ministry form are not valid," the general said, "and only a very gullible and incompetent person could be taken in by them, not a professional."

"I have before me," Kolesnikov said, "a list of all the Russian General Staff and Defense Ministry index numbers we put on our working documents. Those named by the weekly are not on it. The letters "SM" were part of the old USSR Council of Ministers index nunmber, but it was abolished in 1991, and I do not know what these letters mean now. As for the Defense Ministry form, it is clearly a forgery. The form is no big secret, so the document could have been easily put together on a computer or photocopied. At the same time, Kolesnikov said, our documents are not stamped "top secret." But perhaps this is not a very accurate translation. Furthermore: Under the general staff there is no Military-Strategic Analysis Center, which allegedly prepared the "report."

But the most important thing is the lies in the body of the report. "I cannot say anything about the scientists, since we do not keep track of where they go and why, it is not our concern and not our headache," Kolesnikov said, "but the claim that Pyongyang has one or two nuclear warheads and several more will come off the conveyor belt by the end of this year is total rubbish. I can definitely say that the DPRK does not have any of this. Neither does it have the mythical missiles such as Nodong-1 and Nodong-2 and several hundred other nuclear warhead delivery vehicles."

Incidentally, the Russian chief of general staff said, we received several South Korean military delegations last year. They talked of their anxiety about DPRK military might, about their suspicions that it was working on something, but there was no mention of the "facts"

presented by the Japanese weekly in any discussion with serious-minded people. Evidently they knew that they did not exist.

I feel sorry for the Japanese journalists and their publication, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov said. Perhaps they were simply taken in by the forgery when it was slipped under their door. But such, it seems, is the public state of mind in Japan that they will believe any claptrap about Russia, its General Staff, and Armed forces. A pity.

Further on Russian Involvement

PM3101094394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report followed by editorial note: "...And the Japanese Weekly Has Other Documents in Store"]

[Text] Tokyo—Following the publication in the Japanese magazine SHUKAN BUNSHUN of excerpts from a secret report by the Russian General Staff and comments on it by a very informed figure under the pseudonym "leader" (see IZVESTIYA No. 16 from 27 January 1994), the topic of "the Russian version of the North Korean nuclear program" continues to occupy center stage.

It turns out that calculations made by the Russian military differ somewhat from reports by the U.S. special services, particularly over the issue of assessing the level of inaccuracy involved when Pyongyang tested the North Korean missile "Nodong-1" last May. The Pentagon and the CIA note that the effectiveness of the North Korean missile is insignificant in combat terms, and it can be "several kilometers" wide of its target. Meanwhile in the notes which have been obtained by the Japanese press, the Russian special services cite other indicators—according to the Russian version, "Nodong-1" was only 100-200 meters wide of its target, which is clearly adequate for performing combat tasks using a 1-2 megatonne warhead and a flight velocity of Mach 9. In addition to this significant detail, specialists are also studying other curious nuances regarding this matter while noting that the material obtained by SHUKAN BUNSHUN in Moscow deserves to be looked at in great detail.

In this connection it makes sense to note that Akira Kato, the author of the article that has caused such a storm, does not work at the weekly and is a "free lance" by profession, untied to any one publication. He speaks Russian, is well known for his numerous pieces on Russia, and frequently travels to our country. I managed to locate the person from SHUKAN BUNSHUN who edited the General Staff material, sent it off for typesetting, and checked the authenticity of the facts. This was Mr. Kimata.

According to him, the authenticity of the Russian report, which comprises 36 pages of closely written text, is beyond doubt; he also has a tape-recorded interview with the "leader" and a number of other documents which for the time being are "off limits." Needless to say, the editorial office refused to identify the "leader," although it indirectly confirmed that this person occupies an official position in a top department and is a military officer. The weekly also has in its possession other material on this extremely explosive issue which it is preparing for publication.

In a telephone conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent, the author of the article also refused to disclose his sources of information in the Russian General Staff, but he confirmed that his meetings and conversations with servicemen in Moscow were deadly serious and that a detailed transcript has been made of all the facts which he gathered in the Russian capital.

From the Editorial Office. Neither today nor in its previous edition did IZVESTIYA claim that the report in the Japanese weekly was 100 percent truthful. In our view, this is not the most important point. It is clear that a Japanese journalist working on his own would not have been able to manufacture such a "bombshell" and that he was helped to do so by Russian sources. It is still unclear which ones precisely.

Chernomyrdin Holds Talks With Pope John Paul II

LD2801142194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Vatican City January 28 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today visited the Vatican and had a meeting with Pope John Paul II.

They had a one-on-one conversation in the papal library. Instead of 30 minutes envisaged by the protocol, the conversation lasted for about an hour. Chernomyrdin told reporters that the meeting was extremely effective and cordial. Pope John Paul II remarked in Russian that this could not have been otherwise as this is the first time a head of the Russian government is received in the Vatican.

Later Chernomyrdin met with State Secretary Cardinal Angelo Sodano. A guard of honour of Swiss guards salutted the distinguished guest in the ceremonial hall of the Apostolic palace.

Meets Italian President

LD2801184294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Rome, 28 Jan—Today Viktor Chernomyrdin, the chairman of the Russian Government who is paying an official visit to Italy, met with Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, the president of the Republic. During the meeting in the

Quirinale Palace he said that Russia considers Italy as its priority and reliable partner on the European continent. This was reported by a well-informed source in the Russian delegation after the meeting.

Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that the confidence of contacts between the leaders of the two countries has risen which allows them to introduce new elements of partnership and to attach more dynamism to Russian-Italian ties. He also said that Moscow attaches big importance to a forthcoming visit by Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, to Italy in July 1994 in connection with his participation in a G-7 meeting in Naples.

Speaking about the bilateral economic ties the Russian premier said that the government of the Russian Federation intends to undertake maximum efforts to creat a favorable climate for foreign investors among whom, he believes, Italian partners are, as before, in the forefront. During the meeting he spoke out for extending cultural ties between the two countries and for improving their contractual basis. Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed his gratitude to the Italian people for supporting Russian reforms in this difficult time.

Today, Viktor Chernomyrdin also met with representatives of Italian business circles in Rome. In the headquarters of ENI [Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi], a major Italian state fuel concern, the Russian Premier replied to journalists' questions. He expressed the hope that fruitful Russian-Italian economic cooperation will "serve to step up the pace of reforms in Russia." Viktor Chernomydin also reported that several other projects were discussed today besides the recent Gazprom-ENI contract, which he considers to be "the contract of the century in terms of its significance for Russia and Italy." "We would very much like ENI to step up its work not only in the oil and gas sphere, but also in such spheres as chemicals and foodstuff production. The task which I set during this meeting will stir the management of the company to further cooperation, the development of which should not be delayed any longer," he said. The joint development of oil and gas fields in the Barents Sea and on Yamal were among the projects which Viktor Chernomyrdin said were discussed today.

Comments on Government Changes

LD2801215794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Answering a question from a "Vesti" correspondent on whether the resignation of Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov affects Russia's relations with its Italian partners, the Russian prime minister, who is on an official visit to Italy, had the following to say:

[Chernomyrdin] Absolutely no change whatsoever; I feel absolutely none. I think that we have normal relations. Serious people understand that the departure of one person or another has no significance since it is not just one person, or even two people, who implement the policy and do the work but the entire government. We have the president, the guarantor, and if we even move away we have someone to put things right. This will not affect our affairs, absolutely not. It is not just those two who worked. Everyone carries out his duties. The government does not consist just of two people. They had their own specific, narrow responsibilities.

Leaves for Davos Economic Forum

LD2901091794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Rome January 29 TASS—Upon the completion of his official visit to Italy Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin left Rome for Switzerland today where he will take part in an annual session of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

On the eve of his departure the Russian prime minister told ITAR- TASS that he was fully satisfied with the results of his meetings with the Italian leaders. The people and government of Italy have again stated about their support of Russia. At the same time they heard firm assertions that we intend to continue the course of reforms.

Woolsey Remarks to Senate Intelligence Committee Cited

PM2801123494 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 2

[Yelena Ovcharenko commentary: "Is the CIA Still Vigilant?]

[Text] Today, the CIA is waging its main secret wars not in some faraway backwater of the planet but in the halls of the U.S. Congress, where its director, James Woolsey, is making colossal efforts to defend his department's coffers against legislators unhappy about huge expenditure.

On Tuesday [25 January] he addressed the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence where, among other things, he named four areas of Russian problems under close surveillance by U.S. espionage departments.

First of all, intelligence will continue to provide American politicians with "important, and sometimes unique political and economic analytical materials warning of the potential dangers which may lie in store for Russia in future." What is more, the spy chief even promised to help the legislators get to grips with all aspects of the Russian economy. Personally, I envy him: It takes a very lucid mind to trace the logic in our hopelessly confused system!

Second, American intelligence intends to observe closely "the location and condition of Russia's 27,000 nuclear warheads" for the next 10 years at least. In particular, the CIA is fearful that these items, which are best "handled with care," may prove irresistible to the mafia and third

countries striving to acquire nuclear materials, or that they may become dangerous in the hands of a demoralized, morally depressed Russian military.

It is interesting that the American spies listed among their priorities activities to monitor the condition of Russia's "general purpose" Armed Forces. Director Woolsey, it seems, is dismayed that "the military in Russia are not protected against the uncertainties and problems connected with the economic, political, and social transformation of the country." Of course, it is not a question of oversentimentality on the part of colleagues from the power structures, although it is very probable that even American spies find it hard to believe their eyes when they delve into the problems of our homeless, vulnerable, morally violated "tough guys"—from impudently arrested generals to defenseless border guards.

The fourth aspect is Russia's relations with its neighbors, the new independent states. According to the intelligence services, a crisis can be expected in any one of these spots.

...Indeed, there are very few savings to be made on Russia.

Defense Ministry Signs Accord With NATO

LD2801110294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1015 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS observer Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 January—A programme of military cooperation between NATO and the Russian Defense Ministry for the current year was signed in Moscow today. It includes mutual visits by the highest command corps and military experts, joint exercises and training, and the seconding of Russian officers to units and training establishments in NATO countries—some 50 measures in all.

An ITAR-TASS observer was told at the Russian Defense Ministry that the problems involved in settling the crisis situations in CIS flashpoints were discussed during a two-day visit by a delegation from the North Atlantic alliance. Mutual understanding was found with regard to many crucial problems. NATO's military structure is ready to provide help to the peacekeeping forces of Russia and the Commonwealth countries, specifically regarding the training of specialists who are to work as observers in regions of interethnic conflict. In the opinion of NATO representatives, it is not a matter of the participation of the organization's military subunits in settling the conflicts on the fringes of the former Soviet Union. Just the exchange of experience and help with specialists, they think. But "rear support" is not denied—specifically, with communications and observation means. According to NATO officers, their organization cannot operate outside the community without a UN mandate.

At the same time, representatives of the North Atlantic alliance think that it is only under UN auspices that Russian peacekeeping forces too should operate in the CIS' flashpoints. This, in their view, would give rise to greater trust in them, specifically, in Tajikistan.

Denies Signing Agreement

LD2901161894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0200 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry has just received an ITAR-TASS report that allegedly a program for military cooperation between NATO and the Russian military department was signed on 28 January. However, the Russian Defense Ministry knows nothing about this. One thing is known for sure, a group of NATO representatives really did work in Moscow for two days and discussed cooperation prospects with the Russian military. Mutual understanding was reached on many problems. But no official documents were signed.

Russian-Ukrainian Border Oblast Heads Sign Accords

LD2801230994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1703 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Konorev]

[Text] Belgorod (Russia), 28 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting of leaders of the border oblasts of Russia and Ukraine ended in Belgorod today with the adoption of a package of documents setting out the principles of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the 10 border oblasts of Russia and Ukraine.

Participants unanimously spoke in favor of creating an economic cooperation zone, granting their territories special status, and instituting direct financial accounting between enterprises in the border oblasts of Russia and Ukraine.

The adoption of the statutes of the council of the leaders of border oblasts of Russia and Ukraine was a concrete expression of the coordinated approach by the Russian and Ukrainian sides. A permanent working body—the council's executive committee—was set up to coordinate cooperation between the regions.

Participants appealed to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine to conclude an intergovernmental agreement between the two countries and to adopt the necessary legislative acts in the shortest possible time.

Latest Ukrainian Moves Will Wreck Nuclear Accord

LD2901154394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] A senior Russian Defence Ministry official believes that the Ukrainian military department's latest

steps can wreck the Russo-American-Ukrainian agreements signed in Moscow on January 14. The accords aim at scrapping the nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine.

A Russian military spokesman has told Interfax that Ukraine's Defence Ministry has warned the strategic missile forces personnel that the officers refusing to swear allegiance to Ukraine will be dismissed.

The spokesman described these Ukrainian actions as the start of a seizure of strategic nuclear weapons. He stressed that in these conditions the Russian military could not bear responsibility for the nuclear ammunition's control and service. He did not rule out that pressed by Kiev, quite a few missile forces officers would have to leave Ukraine with "unpredictable consequences."

He is convinced that the fate of the nuclear weapons in Ukraine must concern primarily Kiev and western countries. "The loss of proper control over nuclear weapons may be disastrous", he stressed.

'Alarm' Over Status of Ukrainian Nuclear Arms

PM3101113194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Dolinin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent on Strategic Missile Forces: "43d Missile Army Being Destroyed. Alarm Over Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine Growing"]

[Text] As a result of persistent efforts by Russian, U.S., and Ukrainian politicians and diplomats, a trilateral agreement was concluded 14 January this year and the Moscow Declaration on Implementing the START I Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol was signed. It appears that the future of nuclear missile weapons in Ukraine, which has caused so much concern in the world, had been settled in such a way as to suit everyone's interests, primarily Kiev's. The Russian side declared its willingness to proceed to practical implementation of the agreements that had been reached. There was every reason to assume that the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense thought likewise, which was evidenced by the Ukrainian military's proposal to hold talks in order to coordinate a plan for shipping nuclear weapons [boyepripasy] to Russian territory.

However, literally 10 days later, the Ukrainian defense minister issued an order on transporting the weapons to their "S" installations. And at a Ministry of Defense Collegium session 21 January, the commander of the 43d Missile Army and the commander of the 46th Division were forced to swear an oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

This unilateral step constituted a gross violation of all the understandings that had been reached earlier, including the Agreement on the Status of Strategic Nuclear Forces signed by the heads of the CIS in February 1992.

If the troops of the 43d Missile Army start taking an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, Ukraine's objective of gaining full control over the nuclear forces located on its territory will be all but realized. In conditions in which Ukraine proclaims the principle of nonuse of nuclear weapons from its territory, the fact that the command of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces retains combat control is a formality.

Were these steps by the Ukrainian side unexpected? A chronology of the events of the past two years rules this out.

—Back on 5 April 1992 the Ukrainian president issued an edict subordinating all military formations located on Ukrainian territory, including strategic nuclear forces, to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense. Despite the CIS countries' agreement that they would include them in unified strategic forces under a unified command. This edict gave instructions to organize administrative control of the Ukrainian Strategic Nuclear Forces.

—Three weeks later the defense minister issued his own edict announcing the organization of administrative control of strategic forces. The Administrative Control Center was set up.

—During 1992 troops at Air Force missile supply technical bases and "S" installations were made to swear an oath of allegiance to Ukraine. In practice this led to a decline in their combat readiness, because a large number of officers refused to take the oath. A group was formed of the remaining specialists which was practically incapable of working with nuclear weapons. This was the conclusion drawn by the Ukrainian side itself.

—In summer 1992, under a directive from the Ukrainian Armed Forces General Staff, "S" installations, which were formerly under the exclusive command of the Russian Ministry of Defense Main Directorate, were amalgamated with the 43d Missile Army and subordinated to its commander with instructions to make them ready for combat use. It should be noted that this is not the function of the Army and Strategic Missile Forces, and they do not have the resources to administer "S" installations.

Politicians and servicemen alike looked for a way out of the situation that had developed. Everyone realized that nuclear security is no joking matter, and neither are missiles. On 3 September 1993 agreements were concluded in Yalta, including agreements on recycling nuclear weapons and warranty inspection (the latter was to have come into force immediately, from the moment of signing), but a note from the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry stated that it refused to implement these important agreements. Their ratification was linked to a resolution of the tactical nuclear weapons issue.

As a consequence of the note issued by the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, instructions were given to suspend the

freedom of movement of weapons and technology with a view to carrying out maintenance and technical servicing of ICBM groupings as a whole. Troops of the 43d Missile Army were barred from executing directives issued by the Strategic Missile Forces Main Command without the consent of the Ukrainian Administrative Control Center, otherwise criminal proceedings could be instituted. This threatening order, incidentally, contradicted the Ukrainian president's edict on preserving the functions of operational control exercised by the Strategic Missile Forces command. The principal danger of interference in operational control is that personal responsibility for nuclear missile weapons has been destroyed.

...On 19 November 1993 the Ukrainian Supreme Council ratified the START I Treaty with the stipulation that, together with the Lisbon Protocol to the treaty which Ukraine had signed, it is becoming impossible to implement the treaty. Ukraine thus directly proclaimed itself the owner of its nuclear weapons.

And now the servicemen of the 43d Army are being asked to swear an oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

What does this last step mean? The Strategic Missile Forces High Command believes that, with the adoption of the Ukrainian oath, the Strategic Missile Forces will completely forfeit the potential to operationally administer the 43d Army. Ukraine is left alone with its nuclear weapons. Whereas missile troops in Russia and Ukraine used to be united by a single oath and used to ensure the proper level of combat alert status and maintenance of missile weapons despite all the hardships and difficulties, and whereas they used to resolve nuclear security questions jointly, now all this has been ruled out. Ukraine is in the most danger.

Many experienced specialists could quit owing to their unwillingness to take the oath. Quite recently KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported that one-third of officers have already expressed a desire to serve in Russia. Current forecasts show that this number is growing. Specialists stress that if officer strength level in missile units were to fall to 60 percent, they will become unfit for combat.

This raises the fear that the system of combat alert status and maintenance of hardware and weapons will be disrupted. The situation that has developed will not only prevent us from implementing the agreement with Ukraine on further removal of missile regiments from combat alert status, but will also hamper efforts to ensure that missiles are kept in safe state. Today a number of missiles on alert status are irreparable. It is impossible to repair them, the maintenance details do not even have enough fuel to travel to the launch site.

But something else is more frightening still: All guarantees of nuclear security are being discarded. Stanislav Voronin, chief designer of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons, who visited the Pervomaysk division recently, noted that owing to political ambitions, an unwillingness to accept assistance, and an inability to cope with problems on their own, "gross violations of the most elementary rules and norms for dealing with nuclear weapons are evident." What amounts to the removal of specialists on the basis of the Ukrainian oath could, not to put too fine a point on it, lead to a disaster even worse than Chernobyl. Approximately 500 nuclear weapons are stockpiled in storage facilities, which is six to eight times above the norm.

...Overnight Ukraine has destroyed everything that was achieved recently in Moscow. The requirement that missile troops have to swear an oath of allegiance is destroying the 43d Army. Once again there is alarm about the future of nuclear missile weapons in Ukraine.

Moscow Doubts Kazakh Envoy's Statement on Nuclear Weapons

LD2801215994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1844 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin told INTERFAX Friday that he had received no official information on the statement of the Kazakh ambassador in Tehran concerning the republic's intention to decide on the future of nuclear weapons on Kazakh territory independently.

"Primarily it is necessary to make sure that the information is correct and that it reflects the position of the Kazakh Government and President Nursultan Nazarbayev," the minister's first deputy (who accompanies Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin during his official visit to Italy) emphasized.

"We have the kind of relations with Kazakhstan which allows us to resolve our issues without mediation of ambassadors to other states," Adamishin pointed out.

The premier's press secretary Anatoliy Sergeyev also confirmed that the Russian premier currently in Rome had received no official information on the Kazakh ambassador's statement.

Kozyrev Warns Latvia of Consequences of Nationalism

AU2801144594 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 28 Jan 94 p 5

["a.u."-signed report: "Kozyrev Letter to Mock: Warning to Latvia"]

[Text] Vienna—In a letter to Foreign Minister Mock—which will be received by all other European foreign ministers—Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev intensified his warnings against Latvia. He predicted "consequences that are difficult to foresee" if Riga does not change its policy vis-a-vis the Russian minority in the country.

Kozyrev's intervention was caused by a new election law in Latvia that deprives the strong Russian minority of its

right to vote in local elections. According to Kozyrev, about a third of Latvia's population is affected by this rule.

"Thus, political rightlessness is turned into law," Kozyrev complained. He warned against the "fatal consequences of aggressive nationalism." Strong warnings were expressed in several passages: Political extremism might lead "to a confrontation between Latvia and its neighboring states." Russia is Latvia's neighbor.

Within the framework of international law, Russia will do "everything possible to ensure the protection of the rights of ethnic Russians in Latvia," the minister stressed. Latvia is to blame for the difficulties. Its policy aimed at driving out the country's population that belongs to another ethnic group and its efforts to create a state with a single ethnic group may lead to "consequences that are difficult to foresee."

Kozyrev demands—he apparently considers this the last opportunity—that the international organizations raise their voices. The "mechanism of preventive democracy" must be initiated.

The majority of the Russian minority moved to Latvia in the past 50 years where living conditions were more agreeable than in the rest of the Soviet Union. In the period between the wars, the Baltic states were independent. Before that, they had been part of the Tsarist realm for a long time. Russian troops continue to be deployed in Latvia.

Top Negotiator to Talks With Estonia Says Timetable Likely

WS2801172394 Tallinn BNS in English 1318 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow, Jan 28, BNS—Complying with Estonia's request, the Russian delegation will during the next round of negotiations Feb. 1-2 present a detailed timetable for the withdrawal of its troops from Estonia, Vasiliy Svirin, Russia's top negotiator, told BNS.

The timetable includes full information about when one or another unit leaves Estonia and the number of men in it. "We hope that this step of Russia's to meet Estonia's wishes inspires also the Estonian delegation to take constructive steps to meet us halfway," Svirin said. As reported earlier, a general schedule for troop withdrawal was presented to Estonia during the last round of talks late in 1993.

Svirin said that Estonia has recently been hinting at its wish to replace a comprehensive agreement on the troop withdrawal and the conditions for their temporary stay in Estonia with a short protocol containing only the date for the completion of the pullout with the timetable as an appendix to it. He emphasized that Russia has clearly stated it considers this approach absolutely unacceptable. Svirin explained that it would leave unresolved a wide range of problems concerning the pullout and the stay in Estonia of the troops, and the fate of the army's immovable property, which would only lead to deterioration of bilateral relations.

Commenting on Vaino Reinart's appointment as the head of the Estonian delegation for talks with Russia, Svirin said the Russian side accepted it favorably, with full understanding and readiness to continue constructive cooperation.

As to Russia's "ostensible concern" about Russians living in Estonia, Svirin said "we've heard it before." He referred to Reinart's Jan. 20 statement at a Council of Europe deputy ministers' meeting in Strasbourg when Reinart charged that Russia's accusations of human rights violations in the Baltic states stem, not from genuine concern about human rights, but from Russia's domestic political situation. "We regard such statements as carefully thought out speculations of some Estonian politicians," Svirin said.

Churkin Comments on Air Strikes in Bosnia

LD2901144794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin sent ITAR-TASS on Saturday [29 January] his commentary on U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's report to the U.N. Security Council concerning the situation in the two safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Specifically, it has been proposed to open Tuzla airport for humanitarian supplies and replace the Canadian battalion in Srebrenica with a Dutch one. We are currently studying the report very carefully. At first sight, some corrections may have to be made.

"However, already now we can say definitely that Russia's position in favour of a balanced and calm resolution of all questions has been reflected in the report. It rules out hasty actions. The main accent has been made on reaching an agreement between the U.N. and the warring factions.

"Such approach has already proven successful in Srebrenica. The report expresses the hope that by the end of February the replacement of the Canadian battalion will be successfully completed. As far as Tuzla is concerned, a representative of the U.N. secretary-general in former Yugoslavia will hold talks with the Serbian and Moslem sides next week. We call for constructiveness and believe that the necessary guarantees may be provided to prevent the use of Tuzla airport for delivering military supplies, which is a subject of concern of the Serbian side.

"There is no question of delivering any 'air strikes' in order to 'punish' one of the warring sides in Bosnia," Churkin said.

Tatarstan President Upbeat on Visit to Spain

LD2801195894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevtsov]

[Text] Madrid, 28 Jan—The Tatarstan Government delegation led by the Mintimer Shaymiyev, the president of the republic, has ended its visit to Spain. The delegation was here at an invitation of the regional autonomous government of Madrid, the Chamber of Trade and Commerce, and Spanish business circles showing high interest in developing cooperation with Kazan.

At a news conference here, Mintimer Shaymiyev noted that "the results of the meetings and talks in Madrid have exceeded all our hopes." In the course of the visit a whole range of agreements on development of bilateral economic cooperation, as well as on cultural and information exchanges were signed.

Answering the question on Tatarstan's relations with the Russian central government, the president, in particular, said: "At the moment, we are finalizing our work on establishing relations between Russia and Tatarstan on the basis of a series of agreements. I have recently met with Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and I hope that in February we can even sign the treaty on the division and delegation of powers. On 13 March elections will be held in Tatarstan to the Russian Federal Assembly where our republic is not represented at the moment." "We always had and still enjoy a high level of mutual understanding with President Yeltsin and this will guarantee successful solution of the disputed issues and stability of our relations, as well as continuation of the democratization process in Russia," stressed the president of Tatarstan.

Zhirinovskiy Says Demand To Leave Slovenia 'Provocative'

LD2901202494 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, has ignored the demand that he leave Slovenia. He has described the Slovenian foreign ministry's demand as provocative, saying he will leave the country as previously planned on Sunday.

The ministry says Zhirinovskiy's escorts were reported by police to have kicked up a row and destroyed property in the resort city of Bled. The ministry reacted with the demand that Zhirinovskiy and his men leave Slovenia.

UNHCR Offers Help, Advice on Refugee Problems

PM2801141794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 3

[Marina Lebedeva report: "United Nations To Help Russia Solve Refugee Problem"]

[Text] This was stated at a press conference held at the International Press Center by Juan Amunategi, the first accredited representative in Russia of the UNHCR.

He announced that, according to UNHCR figures, there are a total of 20 million forced migrants and 19 million refugees in the world who have left their countries for various reasons. Their fate is complex, they endure terrible trials and risk their lives, but as long as persecution and discrimination persist a refugee problem will be inevitable. This has been confirmed by life—the UNHCR was set up in 1951 for just three years, but still exists today. It has already solved problems for 13 million refugees and has twice been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize—in 1954 and 1981.

Speaking about the situation in Russia, the UN representative noted that the refugee problem is still a new one for this country. Until recently the former Soviet Union was aware of just one "sort" of refugees—Communists who had fled from their own countries and were accepted by the USSR for exclusively political reasons. This happened following the Spanish Civil War and the Chilean coup. It was only after perestroyka and the collapse of the Union that the top Russian authorities joined the world community, which deals with refugee issues in humanitarian terms, in terms of the protection of their rights.

Juan Amunategi drew attention to the fact that, despite recognizing international documents and despite its own laws on refugees and forced migrants, Russia is often incapable of meeting its own commitments, because its economic position is failing to improve.

In this connection, the UN representative noted, the Commission considered it necessary to give Russia all the assistance it could in solving this complex problem. This assistance will be implemented in six areas. Juan Amunategi said that priority should go to the defense of refugees' rights and to aid to the country's government in creating institutions and organs capable of skillfully tackling the problem.

Amunategi also noted that the law on refugees envisages the creation of transit camps for them. Four such camps already exist near Moscow, currently housing around 1,000 refugees. It is planned to give them material aid.

One other important area is to curb emigration—in particular, by informing citizens planning to leave their own countries and come to Russia of the real living conditions facing refugees. Conditions should be created for arriving refugees to integrate into the local community—this will benefit not only the refugees but the locals.

Political Issues

Kozyrev Views Gaydar's Possible Return to Cabinet

LD3101130794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Interfax in an exclusive interview that Yegor Gaydar may return to the Cabinet for a third time.

"Nothing is impossible in our world. A diplomat who says that something is impossible, in principle is not a diplomat," he said.

He believes that the current Russian government is as reform-oriented as its predecessor. "The Cabinet has only been reorganized, so the current government is old, not new. That is why the Cabinet's membership will not be submitted to the State Duma for endorsement," said Kozyrev.

He noted that some of the departments had been reorganized. "New appointments have been made and some of the Cabinet members have been given a new status, say, a deputy prime minister has become a minister. This does not mean, however, that the government is new," he said.

Kozyrev emphasized that as before the Russian government would promote reforms and that Russia's foreign policy will definitely remain unchanged.

He told journalists who accompanied him on his way from China to Moscow that from the beginning he had not considered Gaydar's resignation a necessity.

"I had serious doubts about this. I told Gaydar right away that I respected his personal and political reasons. After all, everyone has the right to long-range tactical and strategic moves. However, taking into account prospects for the democratic movement and the results of the recent parliamentary elections, I thought that Gaydar should have stayed in the government to defend his views. The democratic potential should not have been weakened, particularly after a relative defeat during the elections," said Kozyrev.

He pointed out that the "practice of resignation" would hardly strengthen the democratic movement. Precisely because of this, he has spoken out for a mediatory stance.

"I consider both my co-thinkers," he said referring to Gaydar and Chernomyrdin. "Yegor Gaydar's resignation from Yeltsin's reformatory team was a shock for me," he said.

To quote Kozyrev, disputes do occur in the government and a minister may find it difficult to defend his point of view. "But after set-backs, one may raise the same question once again. This is what I told Gaydar," said Kozyrev.

He expressed hope that after Gaydar's resignation, the democrats would regroup their forces.

"It is the democrats' duty to tell the people what happened during the elections and what they are going to do in connection with this. The type of reform based exclusively on Boris Yeltsin's popularity is no long viable. Reformers, particularly the democrats who intend to form up a government, must win a mandate of their own during elections," said Kozyrev.

He said that the relative defeat during the recent elections would lead not only to a chain of dramatic resignations, but also to a dramatic self-analysis in the democratic camp.

See today's issue of Diplomatic Panorama for details.

Popov Argues Against Pro-Western Reform Model

MK2801122094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 2

[Gleb Cherkasov report under the "Politician" rubric: "Gavriil Popov Content With Government Reshuffle and Ready To Cooperate With Everyone"]

[Text] Gavriil Popov, leader of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement, held a news conference devoted to the movement's upcoming congress. Speaking to journalists, Mr. Popov analyzed the reasons for the RDRM's failure in the elections to the Federal Assembly and gave an assessment of the current political situation.

Mr. Popov believes that the next two years should be devoted to restoring social stability and drawing up a new economic reform program. To this end, it is essential to "lend weight to the parliament" and to let the government work in peace, Popov said. He expressed his astonishment at the "uproar" raised by the press over the latest government reshuffles. In the RDRM leader's opinion, the departure of Gaydar and Fedorov and the change in economic policy are rather positive developments, because "it is necessary to clear the country of the extremes of pro-Western reform," Popov noted.

Analyzing the RDRM's electoral platform, Mr. Popov pointed to a number of tactical mistakes made by chiefs of the RDRM electoral association that caused the movement's fiasco. They include lengthy, albeit inconclusive talks about setting up a bloc; an inadequate fund-raising campaign; and a lack of party structures that could be tasked with performing organizational work, collecting signatures, and campaigning. This is why the RDRM, which initially drew support from 6-7 percent of the voters, did not enter the State Duma.

The RDRM leader expressed his intention to cooperate with all politicians and parties that support the stabilization of the political situation with words and deeds. For the RDRM to be able to cooperate with "Russia's

Choice," however, Yegor Gaydar and his followers should back away from the "pro-Western reform model," Popov said.

Urges New Reform Plan

LD2901185094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1503 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—The Russian Democratic Reform Movement said on Saturday its main task is to develop a new concept of Russia's transition to post-industrial society.

Addressing the Second Congress of the movement that opened in Moscow today, its leader Gavriil Popov said the movement prioritises the development of a "platform of reform, alternative to the western model and ensuring the country's transition to a post-industrial society," as well as "the neutralisation of the most dangerous measures and laws of the western model of reform."

He also said that the movement will seek to initiate debates on the new concept in the parliament and make amendments to the new constitution. In order to promote the stability of power in the country, Popov called for reopening the constitutional assembly and establishing a Council of Nationalities of Russia and several other corporate organisations.

He believes the main result of the December 1993 elections in Russia is that Russia rejected the "post-August pro-western stage of reform" and the shock therapy policy. The fact that none of the political forces received the support of 15 per cent of the electorate proves this point, he added.

The Russian Democratic Reform Movement set up about two years ago had rated among top ten political parties and movements in Russia, but failed to clear the five per cent threshold at the parliamentary elections in December last year.

Popov explained the failure by a mistake in strategy planning. The movement had failed to foresee that the voters would reject the post-August concept of reform so soon. "We believed that the majority would support the presidential course and did not put forward our own alternative," Popov said.

The movement has criticised the Russia's Choice bloc for its inability to "pass the most elementary test of political maturity." However, it is ready to cooperate with the "healthy" forces of Russia's Choice and the Democratic Russia Party. Popov did not rule out the possibility of cooperation with the Communists and the Agrarian Party "if they embark on the path of social democracy," but excluded any cooperation with the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia which he described as a "party of aggressive nationalism." There is much positive in the platforms of the Civic Union and the Yabloko bloc, Popov said.

The Congress has begun debates on Popov's report. The participants will also consider changes and amendments to the movement charter and discus the establishment of its coordinating bodies.

Shuns Zhirinovskiy

LD2901211494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Outside of parliamentary business, there will be no contacts between Zhirinovskiy's party and ourselves, said Gavriil Popov, chairman of the Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms, commenting on the statement he made at the second congress of the movement about the inevitability of cooperation with the present Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] before it degenerates into a fascist structure.

It is still premature to talk about the LDPR as a proper party, Gavriil Popov believes. The possibility that it will fall apart like Vasilyev's Pamyat cannot be ruled out.

Shaposhnikov on Russian Democratic Reform Movement

MK2801121094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 2

[Interview with Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, former commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces, candidate of Russian Democratic Reform Movement (RDRM) in the 12 December elections: "Second RDRM Congress—Realignment of Forces?"; place and date not given]

[Text] The second congress of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement will open in Moscow (at the Socio-political Center on Tsvetnoy Boulevard) on Saturday. In order to find out its aims and objectives our correspondent turned to a long-time RDRM supporter, Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, former commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces, a political figure who ran on the movement's ticket in the 12 December elections.

[KURANTY] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, what are the main aims of the RDRM's second congress?

[Shaposhnikov] First: We need to sum up the results of our work in the period between the congresses and during the election campaign. To make an analysis. Second: to determine our program for the immediate future. The program should be specific. Metaphorically speaking, our aims and objectives should be more "down-to-earth."

[KURANTY] Can organizational changes be expected?

[Shaposhnikov] I am not a leader of the movement. To some extent I would like some changes to take place, but

without the movement's evolving into a party. I categorically oppose a strict hierarchy or party centralism.

[KURANTY] What are the main methods the RDRM employs to raise its effectiveness?

[Shaposhnikov] We have a fairly large number of sympathizers. At present, to pursue our political line we need to strengthen our vertical structures somewhat.

Democratic Russia Questions Ties With Yeltsin

LD3001110994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The relations between the Democratic Russia movement and President Boris Yeltsin have become uneasy, Lev Ponomarev, a co-chairman of the movement, told a RIA correspondent.

We are extremely worried by the fact that the president did not consult with the democratic forces, particularly over the key issue of selecting members of government, he said.

According to Ponomarev, Democratic Russia is now forced to communicate with the president only through the press.

Party Leader Fears Deviation From Reforms

LD3001094894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] In an interview with a RIA correspondent, Konstantin Borovoy, co-chairman of the Economic Freedom Party, has expressed concern over Russia's possible deviation from the reform course.

In his opinion, some time in the near future opponents to the market in the government will start introducing all possible restrictions in the economy. Therefore, according to Borovoy, empty shelves, lines, and distribution coupons might very soon appear.

Also, he does not rule out that a rigid dollar exchange rate might be introduced. According to Borovoy, this will happen when the dollar rate exceeds 2,500 rubles.

Such economic decisions might be followed by antidemocratic moves.

Resignation of 'Key Figures' Examined

PM2801133294 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "'Russia's Choice' Not Losing Optimism"]

[Text] How will the resignation of key figures (Gaydar, Pamfilova, Fedorov) affect the activity of the "Russia's Choice" deputies' faction? What do the leaders of this movement intend to do in the long term? These and many other questions were put by journalists yesterday to Sergey Yushenkov, Mikhail Mityukov, Boris Saltykov, and Grigoriy Tomchenko. It had been intended that Ella Pamfilova would attend the news conference. But she had fallen ill and was not present.

Sergey Yushenkov emphasized that the parliamentary faction supports the departure of Gaydar, Pamfilova, and Fedorov.

In his opinion, a real process is now being observed, whereby the center of power is shifting from the presidential structures toward the head of government. The government has firmly embarked on the path of curtailing the reforms which had been begun.

At the same time "Russia's Choice" is not losing optimism. Again, according to Sergey Yushenkov, the deputies' faction has sufficient means and opportunities "to prevent the matter from being completely spoiled." "Russia's Choice" holds sufficiently strong positions on key parliamentary committees and, in addition, relies on the support and solidarity of other factions (including Communists and farmers) in the struggle against any extreme views and positions.

"Russia's Choice" also does not rule out raising the question of no confidence in the government. This is possible in the very near future, when the new budget, for example, is discussed.

The Duma faction's spokesmen also pin considerable hopes on the president of Russia. Sergey Yushenkov emphasized that Yeltsin will, in the final analysis, realize the perniciousness of curtailing the reforms and will find the strength to make the necessary decision.

Split Emerges Between Communist Factions

LD2801145594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—A split between Russian moderate and orthodox communists is deepening as some members of the Communist Party's Moscow committee and secretaries of regional committees have decided to set up "the Moscow committee's organizational body to restore the city communist organization on the Marxist-Leninist basis as part of the Soviet Communist Party and prepare the 30th conference of the CPSU", member of the political executive committee of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU Sergey Chernyakhovsky told ITAR-TASS here today.

The conference is scheduled for April 2 to coincide with a city conference of the Russian Communist Party. According to Chernyakhovsky, the initiative was supported by representatives of the Union of Communists, the Russian Communist Workers' Party, the All-Russian

Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the Lenin Opposition in the Russian Communist Party (Richard Kosolapov). "The separation from the Russian Communist Party is final," he said.

Meanwhile the Russian Communist Party headed by Gennadiy Zyuganov gained 12 per cent of votes at the recent elections and formed a major parliament faction, more orthodox parties and organizations who called for boycotting the elections are fighting for survival.

In the words of Chernyakhovskiy, there are two reasons for differences between the Communist Party leadership and "other Communists".

Firstly, in the opinion of orthodox communists, Zyuganov and his associates "have taken a conciliatory stand, abandoned communist principles and turned nationalistic". Secondly, the Russian Communist Party does not want to be "part of the Soviet Communist Party" and refuses to encourage double membership of Communists in the two organizations.

Chernyakhovsky said the organizational committee will be supported by no less than one fourth of Moscow rank-and-file communists as well as many Communists in Russian regions. He thinks it may become the basis for a single Communist organization, an alternative to the Russian Communist Party.

"It is the apogee mutation of the left-wing communists," member of the Russian Communist Party's Central Executive Committee Grigory Rebrov told ITAR-TASS today, commenting on the organizational committee.

"It is a sectarian, left-wing force that has failed to unite with the Communist movement and made the last step towards a split. They have no future," he added.

LDP Charges Prosecution of Zhirinovskiy 'Illegal'

LD2801184794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The initiation of a criminal case against leader of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and deputy of the State Duma Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is illegal and it will be appealed in accordance with the appropriate order. This was said in a statement published by the LDP faction in the State Duma on Friday.

According to the statement, a "meeting between Zhirinovskiy and Russian Prosecutor General Aleksey Kazannik, where all issues which could be interpreted in different ways will be clarified, is expected to take place."

However, the faction's representatives warned that if the criminal case "had not been initiated, since Zhirinovskiy had received as yet no information on this from the investigating bodies, those who were guilty of spreading the libel against the LDP leader would bear legal and civil responsibility for this."

The Russian Prosecutor General's Office initiated a criminal case against Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on the accusation mentioned in provision 71 of the Criminal Code—propaganda of war—on January 26. In accordance with the Criminal Code, Zhirinovskiy may face from three to eight years in prison.

New Statute Boosts Oleg Soskovets' Position

MK2801144094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report: "Commission for Day-to-Day Matters. Oleg Soskovets Has Boosted His Standing in Government"]

[Text] The spectacular increase in Oleg Soskovets' clout in the structures of authority has been confirmed not only by the fact that so far he has remained the only first deputy prime minister of the reorganized government, but also by giving his Commission for Day-to-Day Matters [CDM] unprecedented powers. The statute on the commission, which was released yesterday for official distribution, contains so extensive a list of powers that it lends credibility to talk about an effectively monopolistic center of economic power in the government in the making.

Last summer, when the CDM was set up especially for Oleg Soskovets, it was assumed that it would deal with matters of more of less secondary importance, for which the Council of Ministers Presidium would have no time. In the extreme case, the commission was intended to be a filter of sorts to sift out materials not properly prepared for government meetings. The commission's 28 meetings since 15 June 1993, however, have caused a qualitative change in the situation—the CDM has evolved from a marginal body into an "acting" Council of Ministers Presidium. The government document released yesterday only formalized de jure what had already been accomplished. Now, Oleg Soskovets will directly control matters related to changing fuel, electric power, and railway tariffs. Another noteworthy provision gives the commission the right to consider matters related to granting financial and credit resources to industry. Thus Oleg Soskovets has continued the "expansion" of CDM's powers that had started with the Economy Ministry's handing the right to allocate export quotas over to it—hitherto all credits had been allocated by a special government body headed by the finance minister. The commission was just as decisive in "crossing the path" of the federal administration for enterprises' bankruptcies—judging from the document, the structure subordinate to the State Property Committee will keep responsibility only for technical procedures, whereas the CDM will determine their "ideology." It is plainly evident that this allocation of powers suits Viktor Chernomyrdin, who has entrusted his deputy with all economic matters (including strategic ones) in order to gain greater freedom on the political scene.

The lineup of Commission for Day-to-Day Matters
Oleg Soskovets—first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government
Anatoliy Chubays —chairman of the State Property Committee
Yuriy Yarov—deputy prime minister of the Russian Government
Aleksandr Shokhin—economy minister
Sergey Dubinin—acting finance minister
Oleg Davydov—foreign economic relations minister
Gennadiy Fadeyev—transportation minister
Igor Shurchkov—chairman of the State Committee for Industry
Viktor Gerashchenko—chairman of the Central Bank
Anatoliy Kruglikov—chairman of the State Customs Committee
Viktor Krunya—chief of the Federal Currency and Export Control Service
[no name as published]—minister for cooperation with CIS countries

Dubinin Appraised as Acting Finance Minister

PM2801133194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 2

[Ivan Zhagel report: "New Finance Minister Called 'Mr. No' Behind His Back"]

[Text] News agencies have disseminated a report on a Russian presidential edict appointing Sergey Konstantinovich Dubinin, who had hitherto been first deputy finance minister, as acting finance minister.

The question naturally arises of why S. Dubinin has been appointed in an acting capacity rather than as finance minister straightaway. Will a new candidate for this important post "emerge" in a few days' time?

But, according to confidential information obtained from the presidential entourage, S. Dubinin will in due course be confirmed as finance minister. And the "acting" formula creates, as it were, a diplomatic pause, during which the public reaction to the new appointment can be assessed. After all, this key government post is now coming in for heightened attention from the media.

I think that the reaction to S. Dubinin's appointment as finance minister will be positive or, at any rate, calm. After all, he was recommended by Boris Fedorov. Moreover, it was under B. Fedorov that S. Dubinin came to the Finance Ministry as first deputy, and he has always been seen as a man close to the former minister, which guarantees at least in general terms the maintenance of a tough financial policy.

Admittedly, reacting positively to his successor, B. Fedorov nonetheless voiced doubt that he would be able to withstand the pressure from top government officials who, following the obvious change in economic policy, will start demanding more and more loans from the Finance Ministry. But it should be stressed at this point that whenever B. Fedorov went anywhere on a trip, he always left S. Dubinin "in charge." And it was during these periods that the latter earned the moniker "Mr. No!"—a clear reference to his uncompromising attitude as regards various financial demands.

Incidentally, it is always easier to refuse when you are a deputy—even a first deputy—than when you are a minister. But I think that we will very soon learn whether the new minister's nickname is accurate or not.

Unfortunately, we do not yet know the view of S. Dubinin himself on how financial policy will turn out in the coming year. After all, the acting finance minister's first day in his new job was spent in interminable conferences and consultations with his immediate entourage. At any rate, that was what his office told us.

We can also report that S. Dubinin is 43 and a doctor of economic sciences. He was at one time a senior lecturer at the Moscow State University Economics Faculty, worked in the president's apparatus in 1991-1992, and later worked as deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation with the Commonwealth Member States before finally moving to the Finance Ministry in March 1993.

Supreme Court Concludes Questioning of Yazov

LD2801204894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1725 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—The Russian Supreme Court of the Russian Federation finished questioning of defendant Dmitriy Yazov, former defense minister of the Soviet Union, concerning his part in the case of the State Emergency Committee, a spokesman for the press service of the military collegium of the Supreme Court told ITAR-TASS. Today's hearings were held behind closed doors as the court session considered issues representing state secrets.

The next, open, court session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1. Oleg Shenin, former secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, will give his testimony.

Amnesty for Coup Plotters Urged

PM3101110394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 8

[Report by State Duma deputy Vasiliy Lipitskiy: "Amnesty for State Committee for the State of Emergency Members and Lefortovo Prisoners Could Be Step Toward National Conciliation"]

[Text] The dramatic events of August 1991 and September-October 1993 have created a deep split in the life of society and in human destinies. Twice the barricades outside the White House have been dismantled but they still stand firmly in people's awareness, dividing them into two hostile camps.

The flames of confrontation are not being left without fuel. The trial over the State Committee for the State of Emergency case is continuing—an absurd trial of people who tried to encroach on power in a state which no longer exists. From their uncomfortable dock the accused have already moved to seats in the Federal Assembly, having received a vote of confidence from voters. Yet the trial is still continuing and an attempt is being made to persuade us that this is some supreme justice and public benefit.

Investigations are also developing into the events of 21 September through 4 October in Moscow. If they are conducted objectively then they are bound to go beyond the framework of a criminal case involving the organization of mass riots and will force us to return to the sources of the event, to political assessments of the two sides' actions.

The question arises: Why is all this necessary? Why have we, in other cases so tolerant of failure to comply with the laws, suddenly used the ancient principle of "let justice be done even if the world comes to an end!"

The voting in the State Duma on the question of an amnesty for the participants in the events of August 1991 and September-October 1993 revealed a most unexpected disposition of forces: The proposal received no support not only from their political opponents but even from some of those who ideologically and organizationally are quite close to the State Committee for the State of Emergency members and the Lefortovo prisoners. The motives? "Let them be patient for a while," I was told later in the corridors. "These trials keep the opposition in good shape, enable it to maintain a useful tension in society."

I have already written repeatedly about how radicals at opposite political flanks unexpectedly merge and how much they need each other. Some need rousing slogans for demonstrations, other pretexts for calling for the struggle against "communofascism." I allow myself to disagree with one other widespread argument: An amnesty will mean an admission of guilt. In legal practice the most diverse forms of amnesty are known, including those which simply offer to end legal proceedings or investigation.

Such an amnesty could be a way of drawing a line under the past, a step toward national conciliation. As we know, that is the path which was taken in the past in post-Franco Spain, in Argentina, and in some other countries. By rejecting the persecution even of those who were involved in mass repressions and by rejecting the idea of retribution, people there gained something greater—civil peace and stability.

What awaits us in the immediate future: an aggravation of political confrontation? Crowds taking part in meetings under the slogans of "freedom!" on the one hand and "shoot them like dogs!" on the other? Or the peaceful respite the country needs so much? To a considerable extent that depends on how the amnesty question is resolved.

Kazannik Denies Transfer to Constitutional Court

PM2801121494 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 2

["Own information" report: "Aleksey Kazannik Not Being Transferred to Constitutional Court"]

[Text] Yesterday Aleksey Kazannik met with leaders of structural subsections of the Russian General Prosecutor's Office. They discussed ways of further improving the prosecutorial system. Kazannik indicated the need to make changes in the style of work of prosecutor's office administrations and departments in the new conditions. The numerous mass media items about both the general prosecutor himself and his relations with the prosecutor's office apparatus also did not escape attention.

Kazannik denied the rumors of his transfer to the Constitutional Court.

The leaders of structural subsections who spoke criticized the publications in the press about the existence in the General Prosecutor's Office of some opposition to Kazannik from the apparatus' middle level, which is allegedly opposing his activities. It was declared that these mass media items did not correspond to the facts.

Zorkin Comments on Reinstatement to Court

PM2801143994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28-31 Jan 94 p 1

[Interview with Valeriy Zorkin, former chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court, by Aleksandr Gamov; place and date not given: "An Evening Telephone Call to Valeriy Zorkin: I, Too, Can Go on Hunger Strike"]

[Text] As already reported, the Russian Constitutional Court has reinstated Valeriy Zorkin's powers as a judge. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent talks to him.

[Gamov] Valeriy Dmitriyevich, what is your frame of mind as you return to the judge's seat?

[Zorkin] I would like to sum up my feelings in one word—hope. Hope that everything will gradually settle in such a way that we can move forward along a lawful road, and not along the path of 3-4 October.

[Gamov] Judge Viktor Luchin actively fought for your powers to be reinstated, and he even declared a hunger strike. While you made no effort at all in this direction. Why?

[Zorkin] That by no means signifies that I am incapable of going on hunger strike. I swore an oath to be a judge, and in my opinion I carried out my duty honestly. It

seems to me that society must find a means of defending a judge if he becomes the object of injustice.

[Gamov] What kind of Zorkin is returning to the Constitutional Court? Is he the same man he was in September and October, or is he someone else?

[Zorkin] If you are talking about the principles of compliance with constitutionality, then I am the very same Zorkin that I always was. Although, of course, I have changed in some ways. I, too, have learned certain lessons from everything that has happened...

[Gamov] Do you intend to fight for a seat as chairman of the Constitutional Court and again fill the niche of peacemaker?

[Zorkin] Everybody has to be a peacemaker, but not to the extent of offering the other cheek when people are prepared to slice off your head. In brief, the issue of the chairmanship does not worry me in the least.

Companies Threaten To Curtail TV Broadcasts

MK2801151094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 2

[A.N.-signed report: "Airing of Television, Radio Programs May Stop Unless Government Fulfills Communications Workers' Demands"]

[Text] Communications enterprises personnel "will have to stop airing television and radio programs on Russian Federation territory," said representatives of workers collectives of communications enterprises that ensure the distribution of state television and radio programs.

In their appeal to the Russian president, the government, and the Federal Assembly, the communications workers explain the proposed "forced halt" in airing television and radio programs by "an emergency situation" that came about at communications enterprises. According to the appeal, this situation was caused by the television and radio companies' two- or three-month delays in payments to communications enterprises because funds were not appropriated from the republican budget. As a result, all of them wound up in the red, had to stop purchases of materials and spare parts, and had to cancel plans to buy electronic products. This is why emergency reserves have been depleted within the past two years, and why presently no routine repairs of mast antennas are being carried out, which in itself is fraught with serious consequences.

Given that, the authors of the appeal demand that the government "approve the amounts of state television and radio broadcasting and decide on financing them taking into account changes in tariffs and inflation." By the deadline set by the communications workers, the Russian Federation Finance Ministry is also obliged to fulfill Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's directive of 22 December with regard to repaying debts to communications enterprises to the tune of 67.6 billion rubles.

If these and a number of other demands are not fulfilled, the communications workers are intent on halting the airing of television and radio programs throughout Russian territory in the immediate future.

Yeltsin Edict on Legal Information Commission

LD2801151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—President Yeltsin has signed a decree on the creation of the Federal Commission on Legal Information Under the Russian President, a spokesman for the president's press service told ITAR-TASS. The commission, which will be a permanent consultative body, will ensure the drawing up of a package of measures for the creation and functioning of the state system of legal information and the creation of Russia's single information-legal space.

Ruslan Gennadievich Orekhov, head of the State-Legal Department Under the Russian President, was appointed chairman of the commission.

Yeltsin Edict on Creation of Scientific Council

LD3101115694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Today Boris Yeltsin signed an edict on the Scientific Council attached to the Russian Federation's Security Council. The Scientific Council's functions include defining priority areas of scientific research in the security sphere for subsequent examination by the Security Council, the organization of scientific expertise for draft federal programs on security, the evaluation of how effectively these programs are being implemented, involvement in supervising the protection of intellectual property, and a number of other functions.

The chairman of the Scientific Council is appointed by the president and is not a member of the Security Council's staff. Purimov, vice president of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, has been appointed chairman of the Scientific Council attached to the Security Council.

Economic Issues

Zaveryukha Predicts Self-Sufficiency in Food

LD2801200494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Russia's agriculture "failed to overcome the extremely complex financial and economic situation in 1993," Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha, in charge of agribusiness in the government, declared at a news conference in Moscow on Friday. He reported that the debt to the farms for their produce totalled 2.3

Tn [trillion] rubles, and the farms debt to the state for fuel, machinery, and other supplies amounted to 1.8 Tn rubles.

He said that although the cabinet set aside 2.3 Tn rubles in credit at 231

interest for farms in the first quarter of 1994, this fell short of a badly needed credit worth 6 Tn rubles, which, according to him, "may put the spring agricultural season" at risk."

However, Zaveryukha is sure that in 1994 Russia will be self-sufficient in food, and "to secure the domestic agricultural producer," the government even plans custom duties of up to 20

on dairy and meat products and custom duties of nearly 25

on sugar.

He ruled out any change in the government's course toward reform and pledged to restructure agriculture, but only on the condition of a tough fiscal policy since "only such an approach will compel the Russian farmer to be more efficient."

Zaveryukha rejected former Finance Minister Boris Fedorov's charges of the "agro-industrial complex's lobby," but said that he was not going to get into an argument.

Finance Ministry Plans Anti-Inflation Policy

LD2801210194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The Russian Finance Ministry intends to continue the struggle against inflation using a stricter financial policy combined with re-targeting the investments on specific sectors of the economy, according to an official statement by the Finance Ministry.

The ministry will accomplish the preparation of budget proposals for 1994 within the next few days to submit them for consideration by the government and, later, by the new Russian parliament. The draft budget will strictly conform to the strategy of tackling inflation and restructuring the economy pursued by the president and the government, the Finance Ministry pointed out.

The this year's budget expenditures will be severely restricted due to limited revenues. At the same time, the Finance Ministry believes the draft budget is quite realistic and feasible. If approved by the State Duma, it will be a good basis for a further financial stabilization and the necessary adjustment of the social and economic policies.

The Finance Ministry points out that the central financial problem of the first quarter of 1994 is the last year's debts. The ministry said it was taking all possible measures to find additional sources of incomes for their reimbursement.

Russian Energy System Privatization To Begin

PM2801144594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 1

[Igor Karpenko report: "World's Largest Energy System Being Privatized. Twenty-Four Million 'RAO YEES Rossii' Shares on Offer at Check Auctions"]

[Text] It seems as though all-Russia check auctions have ceased to be events that attract any particular attention from the mass media. For instance, the appearance on this nationwide market in mid-January of 6 million shares in the famous "AvtoVAZ" went unnoticed even by our ubiquitous television against the backdrop of the governmental clashes. Nonetheless, it is hard to call the all-Russia auction which will open 7 February anything other than sensational—19 million shares in the "RAO YEES Rossii" (the world's largest joint-stock company) will be offered for sale.

Indeed, if this record is to be listed in the Guinness Book the figures should be clarified straightaway—24 million "power generation" shares will be sold simultaneously and, apart from the Russia-wide auction, another 5 million shares will be on offer at ordinary regional check auctions, mainly in areas where the main enterprises of the "Yedinaya Energeticheskaya Sistema Rossii" [Integrated Power System of Russia] joint-stock company are located.

The terms of the auction and the economics of his enterprise were revealed to Russian and foreign journalists by Anatoliy Dyakov, president of the joint-stock company. The "RAO YEES Rossii" is now indeed the world's largest holding structure, uniting 72 legally independent joint-stock enterprises with a total work force of more than 1.2 million. The enterprise will not become completely independent even after these auctions are over—the state still holds a controlling block of shares and also regulates electricity prices.

The giant enterprise's economic condition is strong and stable—it has managed to preserve all its subunits and the volume of power produced. Its profitability stands at approximately 23 percent on average. The power workers currently lack investment funds—largely as a result of the huge debts owed them by energy consumers. In December, for instance, these debts stood at more than 2.2 trillion rubles [R]! Admittedly, the power workers themselves owe their own partners more than R1 trillion—the problem of mutual nonpayments is well known.

Interestingly, in order to solve this problem, the power workers are now switching to using bills of exchange for their transactions. Within this system bills promise to be very effective instruments, since the bulk of mutual nonpayments is localized within a small closed "circuit"—coal-oil products-transportation-energy.

The all-Russia check auction will run from 7 February through 28 March. Total book value of the "RAO YEES

Rossii" property offered for sale is R12 billion, which is around 20 percent of its total incorporation capital. Nominal price of the shares is R500.

Military & Space Issues

Grachev Addresses Defense Ministry Leadership

LD2901201494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1435 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] A conference of Russian armed forces command personnel has been held at the Defense Ministry. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev noted that the main purpose of the event was to analyze the work of the management bodies of the General Staff and the Defense Ministry. In particular, he pointed out shortcomings in the work of the cadre and indoctrination structures of armed forces management bodies. In their speeches the commanders in chief of the branches of the Armed Forces noted that systematic combat training is taking place among their troops. Combat readiness is being maintained at the proper level in units and subunits. There have been no disruptions in the performance of combat alert duties.

The main problem acutely facing the Armed Forces remains financing. In order to prevent any disruptions in fuel deliveries and food and electricity supplies and to carry out military transportation tasks Grachev has issued instructions that the Defense Ministry's reserves be used for these purposes.

He also drew attention to the question of bringing up to strength the level of active service personnel at Russian military units and subunits situated in so-called trouble spots. In this connection Colonel-General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of land forces, noted that these units are manned only by volunteers who have signed contracts and who have served for not less than six months in the Army.

Kokoshin Previews Weapon, Equipment Production

LD2901224994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1435 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Excerpts] History has provided us with many examples of how dangerous it is to neglect the technical equipping of the armed forces. [passage omitted]

Andrey Afanasyevich Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defense minister, answered questions from our correspondent.

[Begin Kokoshin recording] The task of the Defense Ministry has been in the key areas to ensure, albeit with minimum funding, since we have been constantly underfinanced, both the development of the most up-to-date equipment and its serial production; nonetheless, the new equipment that has been developed in general in recent years has been, so to speak, a very slender trickle, but it is coming through and it will come through. In 1994 we shall probably have to direct our main efforts on preserving what the forces have and on modernizing what they have. This includes such celebrated air defense missile systems as the S-300VM and TOR systems. We will also of course be ordering the BUK M2 system and a number of others, which cover the whole spectrum in respect of range and altitude. That is to say, we are talking about those systems which when linked together in a unified complex can tackle air defense tasks in a theater of military actions.

We have in general, I consider, reached a definite new level in the development of tactical communication systems. By as early as the end of this year we should have provided the most up-to-date communications facilities for a number of our elite units in the most important areas where combat tasks or tasks close to combat ones have to be tackled. We do not intend either to do without new ships, and the launching of new ships is planned. The hoisting of the St. Andrew's flag is planned aboard a new destroyer at the Northern Shipyard and we hope by the end of 1994 to have completed work on the heavy missile cruiser Petr Velikiy.

We are continuing work on the most varied kinds of space facilities and this year we shall be adding something and our space group, so to speak, will be renewed. Improvements are being made too to our space missile-attack early warning systems and to our space-based communications, including for the tactical system for instance.

Program Profiles Operations at Missile Base

LD2901234494

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1920 GMT on 29 January carries the regularly scheduled "Top Secret" program presented by Arten Borovik.

Today's program "The Nuclear Button" is devoted to nuclear weapons in Russia and the United States. Borovik starts the program by saying the nuclear threat still exists: the video shows a button on which is written "To execute the launch" [proizvesti pusk]. Borovik continues, noting that several weeks ago he visited a Russian nuclear missile base located not far from Moscow. The video show a rocket launcher aimed at the (?Warren) missile base in Wyoming. Borovik notes that in 30 minutes Russian missiles could reach the Wyoming missile facility.

At this point one General Gribov is identified as the commander of this particular Russian missile division. Borovik says that all officers and soldiers who work at the Russian base are regularly examined by doctors because the fate of out planet is in their hands. Borovik notes that none of the personnel know what the targets are for the Russian missiles; however, they know exactly whether a particular order is a training or an operational order.

The video continues with Borovik noting that there are many such nuclear missile bases throughout Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. He notes that all these facilities are united in one single nuclear command center located approximately 25 minutes driving distance from Triumfalnaya Arka in western Moscow, in a place identified as Vlasikha.

At this point in the show, Colonel General Igor Sergeyev is identified by caption as the commander of this enormous nuclear facility, itself a legacy of the former Soviet Union. Col. Gen. Sergeyev is cited as the commander in chief of the strategic missile troops. Borovik notes that Sergeyev was born in 1938 and has been in missile troops since the initial days of inception.

At this point in the show, Borovik has a few comments about the nuclear weapons program in the United States. In particular, he notes the recent visit by a top Russian military delegation, led by Col. Gen. Sergeyev. Borovik says this was the first meeting of professionals in this field. He goes on to describe in detail key aspects of the meeting: the video shows Col. Gen. Sergeyev with other members of the Russian military delegation in the Pentagon.

Next in the program, Borovik incorporates an interview with scientist Aleksey Arbatov, identified as an expert for the "Top Secret" program. Arbatov is heard making several remarks regarding different aspects of nuclear weapons in Russia as well as in the United States.

Borovik then is seen asking Col. Gen. Sergeyev about the position of the Russian nuclear missile troops during the coup in 1993. Col. Gen. Sergeyev says: "I can only say that this was a very difficult time for everybody, including us. Our main task, whatever was happening, was to continue our guard duty, to be completely prepared, to professionally inspect operational posts, and to carry out measures for increasing protection and defense of operational launching positions in order to avoid the situation in which nuclear weapons become a card which somebody suddenly would like to play. This was out of the question: not because we are so good but because our lifestyle, our understanding of the dangerous and destructive weapons in our hands, our sense of responsibility in this difficult situation with respect to the fate of our people, for nuclear security, for strategic stability—I think all of these issues ensured that our missile specialist, as he is now and who, in these difficult conditions, is continuing to fulfill his duties."

Throughout the program, Borovik touches upon a very important question: who will give an order to push the nuclear button in case of war? Col. Gen. Sergeyev states: "The command will be given in the established order. It must come only from the president." At this point, scientist Arbatov states: "According to our Constitution, in the case of the incapability of the president, all his functions revert to the head of the government or the prime minister. Thus, this button, or better to say this difficult mechanism, will go to his legal successor."

Concluding the program Borovik expresses his gratitude to the leadership of both the Russian and U.S. Defense ministries for their help in preparing the program.

Nuclear Missile Deactivation Process Detailed

LD3001184394

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 0700 GMT on 30 January carries the "Test Range" program devoted to nuclear disarmament.

The first segment is a brief satirical look at problems in the military. In particular, drug abuse in the Army is noted. An increase from 3,000 addicts in 1991 to over 9,000 in 1992 is noted.

The second segment of the show is of an undated interview between Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and military commentator Aleksandr Zhilin. The interview covers the situation in the Crimea. Zhilin suggests that the Crimea may become a Karabakh between Russia and Ukraine. Shaposhnikov asks if the whole Black Sea Fleet, however glorious and grand, is worth creating a bloody situation between two great, fraternal peoples, linked together by centuries. He then notes that there will be no fighting between Russia and Ukraine. He says if someone thinks there will be, then that person should be put away somewhere safe, where he can rest with his Napoleonic visions.

The third segment deals with implementing provisions of the START treaties. Uragan transporters, fitted with specialized equipment, are seen arriving at the site of one or more missile shafts. Military personnel are seen putting on protective clothing.

There is a brief interview with an engineer familiar with the deactivation process. The process is described as a closed system, preventing any contact between fuel components in the missile and the atmosphere; an operation that guarantees ecological safety.

Footage from a helicopter over a testing range is shown next. Assorted debris from explosions or launchings is shown.

A narrator recalls that Russia is ill-equipped to either scrap its missiles, let alone clean up the single testing range of its strategic missile troops, which occupies an area of 175,000 hectares.

During a brief interview with a junior officer, it is stated that 16,000 tonnes of detachable parts have accumulated from falls over the range during 35 years of its existence. The officer says four operations are now under way: 1) to reduce the guaranteed residue in the fuel supplies in missile boosters and to reduce the number of component fall areas; 2) to assess ecological situation in fall areas; 3) to clear up the fall areas; and 4) to keep the local population informed.

Dangers that Russia faces from aging nuclear weapons is highlighted next: over 30 percent of Russian warheads on standby will be in a dangerous condition in two years' time.

Footage of the (?Surovatikha) deactivation base is next shown. The camera pans around parked missiles which appear to be encased in tubular containers. An announcer notes that the Pebonzhur and Surovatikha facilities are the first Russian bases for liquidating intercontinental missiles.

The liquidation process is detailed next. Each SS-17 or SS-18 missile is first cleaned of dangerous fuel components, then painstakingly divided into separate fragments. The base can liquidate over 40 heavy missiles a year, freeing up to 1,000 tonnes of expensive metals and alloys for industry.

Past methods of liquidation—via explosions—are noted. The problem of funding for new more efficient bases is mentioned.

Russian intentions to create a missile based on the SS-25 are next described. It is stated that this new missile will be more vulnerable than the SS-18 as it will not be able to release up to 1,000 false targets to fool enemy antimissile defenses. Fiscal problems are again mentioned as an impediment in the design process.

The 29-minute program ends with the narrator expressing his hope for world nuclear disarmament.

Obsolete Ships Slated for Recycling, Export

MK2801140094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Nuclear Subs Dismantling Goes Ahead in Far East"]

[Text] A commission of the Pacific Fleet and of the Maritime Kray administration began work in Vladivostok on 26 January. Navy Commander in Chief Feliks Gromov underlined that the main objective of such a union is to compile a comprehensive program for the recycling and exporting of obsolete and sunken Pacific Fleet ships. Observers point out that not only the 35 written-off Pacific Fleet submarines can be used for these purposes, but also the obsolete aircraft-carrying cruisers Minsk and Novorossiysk.

Cargo Spaceship Docks With Mir Space Station

LD3001063494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0540 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Space Station Centre January 30 TASS— The automatic cargo spaceship "Progress M-21" docked with the orbital station Mir at 6:56 Moscow time on January 30.

The cargo spaceship was docked to the orbital station on the side of the "Kwant" module. The cargo spaceship delivered fuel, new equipment, food and drinking water.

According to telemetric information and reports made by Cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev and Valeriy Polyakov, all systems on board are operating normally.

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Begins Session 31 Jan

LD3101101294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—A regular (second) session of the Federation Council is to open here on Monday.

The agenda of the session of the upper chamber of Russia's parliament tackles some organizational issues which were left undecided at the first session, including the elections of a third deputy chairman of the Council of Federation and chairpersons of four committees (the leaders of six other committees have already been elected), adoption of the regulations of the Federation Council and several other documents.

The upper chamber is also to consider several presidential decrees which cannot come into force without its approval.

These include President Yeltsin's decree on prolongation of a state of emergency in the southern Republics of Ingushetia and Northern Ossetia which is likely to top the list.

The Federation Council will also consider the social and economic situation in the Russian Federation, Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, told a recent press conference.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is expected to report on the issue at an early date. Afterwards the prime minister and the deputies who include many heads of local administrations and presidents of Russia's republics, will discuss the 1994 budget of the Russian Federation, Shumeyko said.

The discussion will precede an extended session of the government on the issue and therefore should enable, in Shumeyko's opinion, the State Duma to adopt a draft budget to be worked out by the cabinet as soon as possible.

According to Shumeyko, he has coordinated the lawmaking activities of the two chambers with Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the State Duma. (The Russian Constitution has it that the Federation Council has to decide on the bills adopted by the State Duma within 14 days).

There is no indication so far that the State Duma will take a non-constructive stand, Shumeyko noted.

The sessions of the Federation Council will last, as a rule, for a week and then a two-week break will follow, he specified.

Only 34 persons will work for the Federation Council on a full-time basis, including the chairman and his deputies, chairpersons of the committees and their deputies.

Yeltsin To Address Parliament 18 Feb

LD3101104394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin is expected to make an address on the country's socioeconomic development to both chambers of parliament on 18 February. Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, announced this when he opened a session of the upper chamber today, Interfax reports. Shumeyko also told the deputies that the prime minister's report on the formation of the budget for the current year is being postponed.

Viktor Chernomyrdin may decide to amend some points in his report in light of the president's address, the chairman of the upper chamber explained. The majority of the deputies, however, failed to support this idea, and insisted that Viktor Chernomyrdin should speak this very week. According to the decision adopted, the head of government must brief the deputies on the cabinet's plans for the financial, taxation, budget, agrarian, and industrial spheres.

'Unity and Accord' Faction To Head Committees

MK2901120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 3

[Dmitriy Kuznets report: "A Tidbit of Russian Politics"]

[Text] The committee on CIS affairs, created in the Duma, has become a new phenomenon in Russian politics. Talk to the effect that Russia's foreign policy should be divided into "distant" and "close" has been going on for quite some time now. The absence of a corresponding committee in the Supreme Soviet brought about a situation where the leaders of the National Salvation Front were dealing directly (and in a rather peculiar way) with CIS and Baltic matters in parliament.

In the Duma this mistake was happily avoided and the new committee has been "assigned" to the PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] faction. Apart from the CIS, PRES also was placed in charge of committees on regional policy and local self-government. According to faction leader Sergey Shakhray, PRES intends to occupy all the leading positions in these directions, "traditional" for it, both in parliament and in the government. But as one can easily see, the promised "committee-ministry" linkage in the case of CIS affairs is not working out. PRES' wish to monopolize this area of foreign policy is hampered by the fact that in the government CIS affairs are administered by the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The new economy minister and PRES member Aleksandr Shokhin, however, is working in the government to have himself placed in charge of economic relations with the former USSR republics. But this is clearly not enough to coordinate the policy of the government and the parliamentary committee.

More complications can be expected also from what can mildly be described as the painful relation of the Duma communo-nationalist majority to CIS problems, the "situation of the Russian population," and Russian foreign policy in general. A feeler put out by PRES leaders between parliament sessions was devoted to what is probably the most acute issue of policy with respect to the neighboring countries—the situation in Crimea. Consultations by Konstantin Zatulin, PRES faction secretary and chairman of the committee on CIS affairs, with Ukrainian officials were held behind the Duma's back, and the committee was not called for that purpose because "the majority of deputies are currently away in their constituencies." The "placating statements" made after that apparently did not satisfy the nationalists, who are anxious to seize the peninsula from Ukraine. Before the Duma session resumes, hot debates on this issue are most likely. Should Yuriy Meshkov be elected Crimea's president, the nationalists supporting the leader of the Russian opposition during the election campaign will inevitably get an advantage.

In any event, PRES leaders are to face a conflict with the Foreign Affairs Ministry which, as is apparent from Minister Andrey Kozyrev's latest statements, does not wish to give up the initiative to other Russian politicians in the neighboring countries. The ambitions by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of another parliamentary committee—on foreign affairs—are also aimed at curtailing the Foreign Affairs Ministry's powers. Therefore the erstwhile allies of Russia's Choice will apparently be seeking to take the bloc's existing levers of influencing the government course away from it.

The experience of the Supreme Soviet shows that the size of democratic factions falls in proportion to the growing ambitions of their leaders. Foreign policy appears to be an ideal field for a clash of these ambitions. Which opportunity the communists and nationalists will seize with great pleasure.

Russia's Choice Seen as Hastening Own Split

MK2901103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Kuznets commentary under the "Discipline" rubric: "'Russia's Choice' Fights Personnel Fluidity. It Will Not Be Easy To Secure Democratic Majority"]

[Text] The "personnel fluidity" that had worried leaders of the Russia's Choice Duma faction even before the new parliament went to work seems to have reached critical mass. Reconciling themselves to the inevitability of a micro-split, Russia's Choice leaders decided to speed up

the process artificially—as the Duma resumes its sessions, the faction is establishing a "rigid membership," i.e., a ban on crossing over to other parliamentary associations. Potential defectors have been ordered to make up their mind as to their "propiska" [party affiliation] before 1 February. According to Russia's Choice functionaries, the current strength of the faction (78 persons) is quite sufficient to take care of two or three groups. Most probably, the majority of those who leave Russia's Choice will follow the example of Andrey Makarov and Boris Fedorov, and settle down in the Union of 12 December group.

Despite the Russia's Choice statements, they so far are not managing to have peaceable relations with the Union of 12 December. Russia's Choice has hard feelings against the Union of 12 December because the latter willingly grants "political asylum" to victims of intrigues inside the faction, or simply deputies disaffected with some of the leaders. The Union of 12 December has hard feelings against Russia's Choice because the latter supported the "package" agreement on the election of Duma leaders and committees whereby it denied the nascent group any posts in the parliament.

There is also a chance of an organized split, engineered by the leaders of Russia's Choice. One more faction would get them one more vote in the Duma Council.

At any rate, the parent faction is in for a "toughening of discipline." Not so long ago the Russia's Choice leaders declared: "An identity of opinion is not a must with us; the more stances there are, the better." In actual fact it appears to be worse. In the future, in the idea of the "rigid membership" organizers, the roll-call voting list of Russia's Choice will consist, like those of the Communists, Agrarians, and Liberal Democrats, of the uniform "for" and "against" column.

"We hope for cooperation with the other democratic factions and democratic groups of the Duma including the Union of 12 December, and expect that we will vote in the same manner on questions of principle," Kirill Ignatyev, Russia's Choice press secretary, told INTERFAX.

Russia's Choice members who maintain that they will always be able to cooperate with "union factions" and secure the required one- third of all votes to back the president's veto on any law passed by the Duma, may be disappointed. The main danger lying in wait for Russia's Choice leaders on the "tough discipline" road is the obstinacy of those who would opt for a "St. George's Day" ["Yuryev Den"—in old Russia a day on which serfs were free to change masters] and refuse to pay for their upkeep. New deputy groups forming in place of Russia's Choice may also not back it on some votes. Which would further worsen the situation in the none too unified "democratic bloc."

For example, a clause-by-clause discussion of the budget may result in serious disagreements among the democratic factions and groups. Such a question as no-confidence in the government, with which Russia's Choice could threaten the premier as long as the present cabinet of ministers lasts, may not especially enthuse some Democrats.

There is also no telling what would be the reaction from the unpredictable president, already thought to be unable to engage in conflicts with the parliament, to laws passed by the Duma majority—the right of veto may remain uncalled-for. In this event attempts to secure the necessary votes to block the work of parliament would prove absolutely senseless. The "stagnation of reforms," Yegor Gaydar's phrase to describe the present situation, would fundamentally be replaced by finally rolling them back.

In the Duma, one would see Russia's Choice trampled upon by the Communist majority which would no longer want compromises like the "package" handing out of parliamentary positions. Such are the disciplined remnants of the former, already now quite modest, greatness.

Economic Deal Seen Isolating Russia's Choice

MK2901110094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 3

[Dmitriy Kamin report: "New Deal Has Been Drafted. President To Decide on Academicians' Program"]

[Text] "Russia's Choice," headed by former Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, has drastically improved its chances to become the only State Duma faction to oppose the government. Today a group of academicians under Stanislav Shatalin and Leonid Abalkin plans to present to the president, the prime minister, and chairmen of the Federal Assembly's chambers an economic program that is at considerable odds with the financial stabilization policy as understood by the IMF (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 25 and 26 January). Since this particular document is seen by most of the State Duma's political associations as a basis for a constructive dialogue with the government, "Russia's Choice" (as a matter of fact, together with "Yabloko") has been left out of a discussion on the program that representatives of other factions scheduled for 2 February.

Obviously, Leonid Abalkin's statement about "the corrective nature of the proposed recommendations" should not be taken literally. In fact the draft program calls for a significant departure from the economic principles that were actively defended by Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov, who came to epitomize monetarism in Russia. At the same time, it is too early to conclude that the package of measures proposed by the academicians means revolutionary changes in the economic policy pursued by the government.

The program, if adopted by the government, may have much greater political significance, however—joining forces with the parliamentary majority on its basis will make the Chernomyrdin cabinet the first "government of people's confidence" in the past three years. Seen against this backdrop, the situation at the Federation Council appears less clear than at the State Duma. A lack

of party divisions and Viktor Chernomyrdin's influence in the upper chamber, however, may combine to make the upper chamber just as enthusiastic about the prospects for an alliance with the government as the lower chamber appears to be.

To all appearances, former government members are set to be the most consistent opponents of the new draft program. This is only understandable: Yegor Gaydar and his loyalists need to restore their political authority after their failure in the December elections. What "Russia's Choice" sees as the Russian economy's inevitable slide toward hyperinflation ("Ukrainization") gives the political association a chance to rehabilitate itself.

Representatives of the parliamentary majority have been cautiously inferring that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, for his part, will also back the draft so as to offer his version of program as a basis of the cabinet's economic policy at the next stage, drawing on his current constructive stance.

The definitive future of the draft, however, will not be decided by the government or the parliament. In the current political conditions the last word rests with Boris Yeltsin. The stress on the president's "firm" stance with regard to the reform course, made by his press secretary, amounted to a signal for the key political figures that the president will not balk at decisive actions if he happens to be dissatisfied with the new balance of forces in the parliament or the government.

Leaders of the group of authors of the new economic program

Academician Leonid Abalkin, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences [RAS] Economics Institute;

Academician Nikolay Petrakov, director of the RAS Central Economics and Mathematics Institute;

Academician Stanislav Shatalin, president of the "Reform" international foundation, who co-authored the "500 Days" program together with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy;

Academician Oleg Bogomolov, director of the RAS International Economic and Political Studies Institute;

Academician Yuriy Yaremenko, director of the RAS Economics and Scientific-Technical Progress Forecasting Institute; and

former Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov, director of the Russian Government's Information and Social Technologies Center

Nikitov To Head Upper Chamber Administration

LD2901072694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Vladimir Nikitov has been appointed head of the apparatus of the upper chamber of the Russia's Federal Assembly. He was Vladimir Shumeyko's adviser at the time when Shumeyko held the post of the first deputy prime minister.

Regional Affairs

State of Emergency in North Ossetia, Ingushetia Extended

LD3101130494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin signed a decree today "On extending the state of emergency in the territory of Mozdokskiy Rayon, Prigorodnyy Rayon, and adjacent areas of the Republic of North Ossetia, as well as in Malgobekskiy and Nazranovskiy Rayons of the Ingush Republic".

The Russian president's press service says the decree was signed in view of the fact that tensions persist in some areas of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic because of the unsatisfactory implementation of the Russian president's decree of 13 December 1993 "On the procedure for a return to the places of permanent residence of refugees and displaced persons on the territory of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic," in view of the continuing sabotage and exchanges of fire, and also with the aim of ensuring state and public security—in accordance with the RSFSR law "On state of emergency" and the Russian Federation law "On security."

Aushev Asks Yeltsin To Replace Ingush Head

LD2801200394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maisigov]

[Text] Nazran January 28 TASS—Ingush President Ruslan Aushev on Friday made a request to Russian President Boris Yeltsin urgently to replace chief of the interim administration in the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Vladimir Lozovoy who "is incapable of enforcing decrees of the Russian president, government and parliament".

Aushev believes that the chief of the interim administration deliberately thwarted the implementation of the Russian president's decree of December 13, 1993 on the procedure of the return to places of permanent residence of refugees and enforced resettlers in territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia". The Ingush president stated in his address that Vladimir Lozovoy more than once misled the Russian media, and, moreover, the Russian leadership and the Russian president by informing them that the return of refugees to places of permanent residence began on time and proceeds successfully. The Ingush president also noted that Lozovoy's being chief of the interim administration does nothing to stabilise the situation in the region, leads to its aggravation and to a new interethnic conflict.

Similar addresses were sent on Friday to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko.

Sakhalin Governor Rules Out Military Reduction

LD2801201294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] There can be no question of reducing Russian military presence in the Sakhalin and Kuril islands given that Japan's military strength in Hokkaido is ten times bigger, Governor of Sakhalin Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov said speaking in an interview with the local Sovietskiy Sakhalin newspaper.

Up to 10,000 incidents are registered annually of border violations and illegal fishing in Russia's economic zone by Japanese fishing boats. The latest in a series of similar violations took place on January 21 and 22 following illegal entry into the Russian territorial waters of Kunashir Island (Southern Kurils) by dozens of Japanese trawlers.

Commander of the Russian Coast Guard Rear-Admiral Kudinov described the action as "planned and coordinated."

The Governor of Sakhalin believes that Russia's military strength in the Southern Kurils is just what it should be and does not upset the regional balance of forces or pose any threat to each other's security. He says any diversion will cause nothing but an extra source of international tension.

Krasnoyarov says that any reduction in Russia's regional presence is taken by Japanese poachers as "an invitation to dinner." The redeployment of an air force regiment from Iturup Island has immediately led to an increase in the number of border violations, he said.

The same applies to the problem of Russian military presence in Sakhalin. The Chief of Staff of the Russian Armed Forces does not rule out military cutbacks to save money needed for the upkeep of troops deployed in the island. However, the Governor says the redeployment of troops in mainland Russia will cost the government "a bunch."

Krasnoyarov is determined to try to defend his position before the Federation Council (Senate) and the government. On informing Tokyo about Russia's strength in the Far East, he said such openness was possible only on a mutual basis. Any unilateral demand of this kind, he said, "is not at all acceptable to Russia as a sovereign state".

Omsk City Chiefs Protest Yeltsin's Firing of Mayor

MK2901123094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 5

[Sergey Sopov report: "Mayor of Omsk Discharged. City Administration Backs Yuriy Shoykhet"]

[Text] Omsk Mayor Yuriy Shoykhet, dismissed by a recent presidential edict, handed over his powers to his deputy, Valeriy Roshchupkin, yesterday. The city administration collegium, however, does not agree with Boris Yeltsin's decision and intends to demand the creation of a special commission to assess objectively the former mayor's work.

According to Nikolay Terekhov, head of the information center under the city administration, the president's edict on Mr. Shoykhet's removal caused total bewilderment among the workers of the city administration and supporters of democratic reforms in Omsk. Yuriy Shoykhet was appointed to the post of mayor by Boris Yeltsin in person right on the heels of the 1991 August putsch largely because of his reputation as a firm opponent of the putschists.

The wording of the reasons for the mayor's removal was more than sharp. The edict points out that Yuriy Shoykhet "systematically performed actions aimed at destabilization of the political and economic situation in the city, and repeatedly exceeded his powers."

In the meantime, according to information from sources close to the city and oblast administrations, the edict on Shoykhet's dismissal was signed by the president 40 minutes after Omsk Oblast Governor Leonid Polezhayev, who is chairman of the interregional "Siberian Agreement" association, had walked into his office. Mr. Polezhayev was one of Yuriy Shoykhet's main enemies. In particular, the mayor opposed in every way the subsidy-based approach to the shaping of the city budget preached by the oblast administration. Thanks to the oblast administration's policy, food and essential goods prices, subsidized from the local budget in Omsk, are being maintained at a lower level than in the other oblasts in western Siberia. Shoykhet insisted on targeting subsidies at the poor, which would release considerable funds for city and oblast needs. The mayor thought that the policy of the oblast governor had denied the city the funds for civic improvements and the maintenance of city utility systems. According to a staffer in the city administration, "Omsk is choking for want of funds and simply falling apart while low-priced goods are being swept out by visitors from other oblasts."

On 27 January, the collegium of the city administration with Yuriy Shoykhet's participation decided to pass a request to Boris Yeltsin to appoint a competent commission of the president's staff to conduct an expert assessment of the Omsk mayor's work. The collegium voiced the hope that the edict may be revoked.

Tatar Chiefs Prepare for Federal Assembly Elections

MK2901140094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 5

[Sergey Fedotov report: "Shaymiyev To Run for Federal Parliament. Kazan Agrees To Nominate Its Candidates for Parliamentary Election"]

[Text] Tatarstan leaders are ready to join in the election campaign to elect the Federal Assembly. KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned that the collection of signatures to register President Mintimer Shaymiyev and Supreme Soviet Chairman Farid Mukhametshin as candidates in the elections for the Federation Council was launched yesterday in the republic. If this is so, the republic is in for a fierce struggle for seats at the Russian parliament between the bureaucrats and the democrats. Russian State Duma Deputy Ivan Grachev is intent on seizing one more chance by running for the Federation Council.

This information has not been officially confirmed. According to local observers, the silence is attributable to the fact that the negotiating process between Kazan and Moscow, which was resumed in January, has not yet reached the stage of signing an interstate treaty and intergovernmental agreements. According to Tatarstan Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov, however, the republic's leaders expect the documents to be signed before 13 February—the deadline for completing the registration of candidates. Once treaty protocols are approved in Moscow, the Tatarstan president and parliamentary speaker will definitely make an official announcement about their joining the election campaign for seats in the Federal Assembly's upper chamber. Then, observers note, one will be able to state with certainty that the federal elections will take place in the republic on 13 March and that State Duma seats in all five one- mandate districts will be fiercely contested by representatives of the local administration. Shaymiyev and Mukhametshin will apparently be elected to the Federation Council.

The bureaucrats' main rivals in the struggle for deputy seats will be representatives of the "Equality and Rule-of-Law" electoral bloc, an association of Tatarstan's democratic forces. Yesterday's meeting of its leadership approved nine candidates whose election campaigns the bloc will support. Six of them already contested the 12 December elections and won more votes in their districts than any other candidates. Apparently, this gives "Equality and Rule-of-Law" a chance to compete with the republic's leaders for Russian parliamentary seats. Ivan Grachev, for the time being the only State Duma deputy from Tatarstan, elected on the "Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin" ticket and the bloc's chairman, will run for the upper chamber.

"We may lose to the nomenklatura, if more than 50 percent of the voters turn out in electoral wards. But this would not suit the republic's leadership, who keep saying that by ignoring Russian elections the people prove the correctness of a course chosen by Tatarstan," Grachev told KOMMERSANT-DAILY. Local politicians, however, note that the bloc's chances are diminishing because the democrats cannot put up a joint front in the elections. Despite a decision by the bloc's leaders, members of the Democratic Party of Russia's local branch and representatives of other democratic movements are going to join in the fray.

Deputies Form Urals Senate, Seek Greater Influence

MK2901124094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 5

[German Galkin report: "The Urals Lobby Intends To Intensify Its Influence"]

[Text] On 28 January, the council of the regional Association for Economic Cooperation of the Urals Republics and Regions held a session in Chelyabinsk, chaired by Eduard Rossel. It discussed the economic problems of the Urals territories and also made a decision to create the Assembly of Ural Deputies or, as it is unofficially being called, the Urals Senate.

At a final press conference Eduard Rossel came out with a statement on the creation of the Assembly of Urals Deputies. At a request from KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent he explained that parliamentarians of all Urals regions are associating not to strengthen opposition to the president's course but to undertake "day-to-day parliamentary work." Observers point out, however, that the Urals Assembly has chances of becoming a serious political force in the federal parliament, capable—relying on the support of the regional association—of influencing both the government and the president.

Touching on the question of possible ratification by the federal parliament of the constitution of the Urals Republic, its former governor Mr. Rossel said that this question is not so urgent. Nonetheless all the requisite documents have been sent to the State Duma. To deal with a number of regional problems, Mr. Rossel reported, a special commission is being set up under the Russian president which will also include members of the Association for Economic Cooperation of the Urals Republics and Regions.

Among the statements made by representatives of the Urals regions the most attention was drawn to the report by Vladimir Yelagin, head of the Orenburg Oblast administration: He said that the spring sowing campaign may not be held in the oblast, which currently supplies grain to 64 regions in Russia. The reason is the lack of funds: The government has not as yet settled the old debts, and hopes for credits is very small.

The council session decided to submit to the government 12 economic programs for the development of the Urals, including on conversion, communications, agriculture, and also on improving the financial settlements system. Special consideration was given to the prospects of producing optical fiber communication facilities. As Anatoliy Barulin, chief designer at a defense institute, told KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent, the Urals enterprises undergoing conversion are capable, for instance, of controlling the market for modern communications means in Russia.

Thus, the meeting in Chelyabinsk has demonstrated the regional leaders' serious intention to increase the political and industrial influence by the Urals lobby in Moscow.

Leningrad Region To Have Own Local Government

LD3101094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0851 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent John Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg January 31 TASS—"You can now address me as governor," chief of the administration of Russia's northwestern Leningrad region Aleksandr Belyakov told journalists here today. He was presenting the regional administration structure.

Belyakov recalled that the total area of the region exceeds that of Austria, and its contribution to the national product is greater than the total production of the neighbouring Republic of Estonia. "We are as important a part of the Russian Federation as the city of St. Petersburg, and we will have a government of our own," governor of the Leningrad region said.

Belyakov spoke against giving a new name to the region which was called, as St. Petersburg was, after Bolshevik revolution leader Vladimir Lenin. He said that "remaking history is a thankless business and it would offend siege veterans who defended the city and region of Leningrad."

Belyakov said Vladimir Porotikov will be the finance minister of the local government. There will be four vice-premiers. One will be in charge of the economy, another in charge of agriculture and environmental protection, still another will be responsible for the development of the social sphere, and the last one will be in charge of privatisation.

The regional legislative assembly will consist of 25 deputies who will be elected on March 20, on the same day when deputies to the municipalities will be elected in major cities and other residential centres of the region.

The present 230 rural councils will be replaced with 219 volosts. Villagers will elect "starosta" (village elder, or headman). According to Belyakov, this will bring power closer to the people, stimulate initiative and increase responsibility of local governments by enhancing their role in the economic reform.

But the region has first to work out its own charter, which will be put to a referendum on the election day, March 20.

International Affairs

Joint Statement Issued After Talks in U.S.

LD2901133794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The visit to Washington by the governmental delegation of Ukraine, led by Economic Minister Roman Shpek, has ended with the adoption of a joint statement on the outcome of the Ukrainian-U.S. economic negotiations.

In particular, the statement says that the United States of America attributes primary importance to the success of the democratic and market reforms in Ukraine. Taking into account the fact that Ukraine plays a stabilizing role, its economic and political security is of very great significance for the security of the United States and Europe.

In connection with this, the document points out, proceeding from the results of the negotiations, the United States submitted for consideration plans to expand aid to Ukraine in 1994. The United States of America is also ready to work with its G-7 partners and international financial organizations with the aim of immediately mobilizing additional aid to support the reform program worked out by Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund.

The U.S. side, the statement further indicates, expressed concern about the current economic state of Ukraine and hailed the measures by the Ukrainian authorities geared to overcoming the economic crisis. Ukraine and the United States of America agreed on setting up a joint commission on issues of trade and investments and also completed negotiations on the agreement on avoiding double taxation and continued negotiations on bilateral protection of investments.

U.S. Firm To Help Store Nuclear Fuel Waste

LD2901094594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Zaporozhye January 29 TASS—The problem of storing nuclear fuel waste at Ukrainian nuclear power plants will possibly be resolved with the help of a contract concluded between the Zaporozhskaya AES amalgamation and the U.S. Duke Power Company.

Ukraine has no facilities to process nuclear fuel waste. Earlier, processing was done in Russia. Ukrainian nuclear plants have stockpiled a lot of used magazines after Russia's refusal to receive waste for processing. They are now kept at "cooling" ponds which are virtually filled up.

If the problem is not resolved in the next 12-18 months, operating power units of nuclear plants should be switched off one by one.

The UKRINFORM news agency reports that storage facilities of the Duke Power Company have a general licence of the U.S. leading control organisation and are already in operation at three American nuclear power plants and two nuclear laboratories.

The Zaporozhye nuclear power plant has already started work to implement the contract: an ecological and technological feasibility report is now being drafted.

If this and following work is successful, Ukraine will have the first stage of such a storage facility for nuclear waste by the end of 1995.

In the agency's opinion, the construction of similar storages at other nuclear stations will help stabilise the situation in this field and to resolve the problem of temporary storage of nuclear fuel waste.

Doubts Over Nuclear Disarmament Pact Viewed

WS2801183094 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Vitaliy Karpenko under the "Editor in Chief's Column" rubric: "They Promise Too Much"]

[Text] The trilateral statement of the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia is being discussed by everybody. It is no wonder—nuclear disarmament is the only way for humanity to survive. Either all nuclear states will dismantle this most terrible weapons of mass destruction, or the threat of wiping out every living being on the face of the earth will loom over civilization like the sword of Damocles. However, for some reason, the first step was not made by Russia, China, or even France, or by any other country possessing nuclear weapons, but by much-suffering Ukraine. Besides, the most vociferous and heated appraisals of the thanks-to-secret-diplomacy agreement are being voiced by officials of those states which belong to the nuclear club. This is understandable: We would embrace with the same clamor and degree of concern the disarmament of the United States or, even more so, Russia. However, I am afraid that we will not live that long. Now we are being assured that Ukraine will gain a lot after it hands over its nuclear warheads to our northern neighbor, which will turn around and sell the enriched uranium to the United States; these assurances are voiced by our president, as well as our ministers and generals, who unanimously assert that Ukraine will reap many profits on the path to unilateral nuclear disarmament. State mass media organs furiously advocate the same claim and voice the same opinion, and such uniformity and unanimity makes one to recall the former times of *ideological adherence to the party line.*

Normal people, however, are lost in doubts. It is true that Ukraine has declared itself to be a nonnuclear state; it is also true that, having suffered from Chernobyl, Ukraine does not need any nuclear warheads. However, the disarmament should be accomplished step by step, along with other nuclear states.

Yes, the statements that the liquid-fuel rockets are dangerous to the environment sound convincing; besides, the rocket's guarantee service term is coming to a close. But is there any reason to hand over the solid-fuel rockets? Even pro-Russian Mr. Kuchma has not consented to such a move.

Yes, there is no disagreement as to the statement that we do not need strategic nuclear weapons which we are not able to use (it is a logical point of view, because tactical rockets were given to Russia for free). However, let us recall Margaret Thatcher who, notwithstanding her being a woman, had strongly defended the English right to possess nuclear weapons as a means of deterrence, even though nobody threatened the territorial integrity of Great Britain and nobody exerted shameless economic pressure upon that country.

Yes, the lack of specialists capable of providing technical service to nuclear warheads is a serious reason to get rid of them. However, how many of our countrymen and compatriots are providing technical service to those weapons on Russian territory?!

Now President Clinton states joyously: Strategic missiles on Ukrainian territory will no longer be aimed at the United States. However, not a word in the statement about strategic missiles on U.S. territory not being aimed at Ukraine, Kazakhstan, or Belarus...

Well, Ukraine's unilateral nuclear disarmament is a noble and moral step. We are being assured that this step is economically profitable as well. However, doubts are natural among men. To disperse doubts and to become assured of Ukraine's profits, we need to have clear and distinct answers to some questions.

First. Why have the three presidents preferred the form of a statement as opposed to a trilateral agreement, as is usually used with important international issues? As a rule, statements are not subject to parliamentary ratification. Maybe, the adoption of the statement was intended to preclude ratification by the Ukrainian Supreme Council, even though the council, according to Leonid Makarovych [Kravchuk], can *grow wiser*. If the statement is not subject to ratification, are its provisions subject to implementation?

Second. What *specific* compensation is provided for Ukraine for the transfer of the nuclear warheads to Russia?

Third. For *what price* is Russia going to sell enriched uranium from Ukrainian warheads to the United States? Why cannot Ukraine sell that uranium to America or some other nuclear state without an intermediary?

Fourth. How many, in what stage of *preparedness*, and for *what price* does Ukraine sell uranium rods to Russian nuclear power plants, which are prepared from Ukrainian raw materials mined and enriched by our citizens? At the same time, it would be interesting to know the price of the completely prepared uranium rods which are being resold to Ukrainian nuclear power plants by Russia.

Fifth. What specific security guarantees are granted to Ukraine by the United States and the Russian Federation for dismantling strategic nuclear weapons, in addition to the provisions of the statement, which repeat the principles of the CSCE Final Act? The CSCE Final Act was signed by these states some time ago, but it did not exclude Russian territorial claims and economic pressure with regard to Ukraine—a member and one of the founders of the United Nations.

Sixth. The last question repeats the doubt that was already expressed above: Why are we discussing the full nuclear disarmament of *Ukraine only*, not taking into account a *step-by-step simultaneous* disarmament by all *other nuclear states*?

As we see, these questions are not difficult to answer. However, without these answers, it is impossible to evaluate the Moscow trilateral agreement and determine what *Ukraine will gain* for transferring strategic nuclear weapons—will these gains be the same as with the tactical missiles transfer, or will there be something more?

Anticipating my opponents' criticism, I admit that I am not a nuclear specialist, and the above questions may be those of a dilettante. However, it makes it easier for specialists to answer them *precisely and clearly*. VECHIRNIY KYYIV is ready to publish such answers to dissipate the disbelief of many Ukrainian people in the great victories of our young diplomacy.

Military Equipment Dismantled According to CFE

LD2801204494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Kiev January 28 TASS—Altogether 603 tanks, 630 combat armoured vehicles and 175 planes have been dismantled by November 17, 1993 in accordance with the treaty on conventional weapons in Europe. More than 50 inspection teams from countries-participants of the treaty visited Ukraine during that time.

Another four international inspection teams have already visited the country this year. They inspected armoured vehicles' production plants in Lvov, Nikolayev, Kiev and Zhitomir. 100 tanks and 60 combat armoured vehicles are planned to be destroyed on these sites in the near future.

Altogether 600 tanks and more than 300 combat armoured vehicles should be dismantled during this new stage of reduction of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Russia Suspends Fuel Supplies to Power Stations

LD2801205494 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Russian enterprises have suspended fuel supplies to Ukraine's nuclear power stations due to persistent indebtedness. A report by Ukraine's State Committee for the Use of Nuclear Power circulated today says that unless the situation improves, Ukraine will have to decommission 3.8 million kilowatts-worth of power-generating facilities, or one-third of its nuclear capacity, in 1994, and all of its nuclear power stations in 1995. In order to find a way out of this contingency, it is necessary to immediately pay Russia's enterprises over 48 billion rubles for new fuel.

Power Stations May Stop Working

LD2801211694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1844 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Up to third of Ukraine's nuclear power stations may be decommissioned in 1994. This will lead to the loss of 3.8 Bn kilowatts of electric power. All Ukrainian nuclear power stations may stop functioning in 1995, INTERFAX-Ukraine was informed by the press service of the Ukrainian State Committee for Atomic Power on Friday.

The press service announced that Ukraine received practically no nuclear fuel due to continuing non-payment of Ukrainian enterprises to Russia. This would lead to stopping of the nuclear power stations' energy blocks in Ukraine.

The 3rd energy block of the Chernobyl nuclear power station is expected to be stopped on January 30, its first energy block on March 31 and the energy blocks of the Yuzhnoukrainskaya and Zaporozhye nuclear power stations may be stopped in May and August.

The continued functioning of the Chernobyl nuclear power station's 2nd energy block planned by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet is also becoming unfeasible, the committee's press service pointed out.

Document Suggests CIS Economic Union Membership

LD2701175294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent has learned that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, acting on an instruction from the Supreme Council, examined the issue of the likely consequences of signing or not signing the economic union of CIS countries.

The prepared information, signed by acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, points out that 80-90 percent of the total requirement for oil and gas, 80 percent of raw materials for light industry and 70 percent of component parts for the machine-building industry come from CIS countries. Ukraine is also one of the main suppliers of agricultural products, cast iron, steel, etc to markets in the CIS, but the competitiveness of a significant part of the exportable goods is low.

The document draws the conclusion that at present "the basis for economic integration is very weak," and because of this it is difficult to foresee an equal coordination of reform processes." However, "in the event of Ukraine not joining the economic union a possibility exists that discriminatory measures on the part of members of the CIS economic union, in the first instance of Russia, will be adopted against it:" a tougher customs regime; a search for and the creation of alternative transportation routes and ports for trade with the West (negotiations are already being held on designing a new gas pipeline through Belarus and Poland, a new port is being designed in St. Petersburg, and the port in Novorossiysk is being enlarged); restricting supplies of weapons to Ukraine, a search for alternative suppliers for traditional Ukrainian goods entering CIS markets; tougher competition with Ukrainian goods in markets of third countries, and a refusal to support Ukraine in international and financial organizations. There is also a "considerable dependency on Russian for storing and processing used nuclear fuel."

In the opinion of the authors of the document, total losses in the event of Ukraine not joining the economic union and discriminatory measures being adopted against it are estimated at approximately $4.6 billion annually.

The document's conclusion is that, "in this situation the most reasonable and well-considered approach is Ukraine's cooperation with the economic union as an associate member."

Zlenko Views Purpose of Trip to Balkans

LD2801175394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Kiev, 28 Jan—[passage omitted] At a meeting with servicemen of the UN peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo on 27 January, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko noted in particular that "one of the most important tasks of my trip to the Balkans is the necessity of outlining the extension of specific assistance by Ukraine in settling the situation in Bosnia- Herzegovina." In the opinion of the head of the Ukrainian foreign policy department, only by taking account of all the possibilities and all the interests of the parties concerned can a mutually acceptable way of resolving this problem be elaborated.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Lysenko Case

LD3001180994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The press center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs publicized a statement today from the Ukrainian

Embassy in the Republic of Poland. In particular, it reads that on 27 January 1994, the Polish newspapers ZYCIE WARSZAWY and SZTANDAR MLODYCH published a report about a court case that was being instigated against three Polish citizens on 31 January and that they were being accused of smuggling. One of the accused described himself as an agent of the Polish special services. This gave the mentioned newspapers grounds for describing the case as revenge for Lysenko and a Polish-Ukrainian smuggling and espionage war.

The Ukrainian Embassy announced that the criminal case that was initiated against the Polish smugglers over a year ago has no bearing on the case of Major Anatoliy Lysenko. None of the Polish citizens are being accused of espionage, and that is why there can be no question of revenge or an espionage war. The Ukrainian side regards the arrest of Major Lysenko as a spy to be groundless, and that is why it has continuously demanded his release.

National Affairs

Meshkov Wins Crimean Presidential Elections

LD3001222094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2155 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Simferopol, 30 Jan—Presidential elections have taken place in Crimea. According to previous reports of the Central Electoral Commission, the headquarters of the Republican Party of Crimea and the "Russia" bloc (the bloc of parties that have united around Yuriy Meshkov) in the towns of Simferopol, Sevastopol, Bakhchisaray, Kerch, Yevpatoriya, Alushta, Yalta, and in Simferopolskiy and Chervonogvardiyskiy rayons—on average, 73.5 percent of the inhabitants who turned up at the polling stations—voted for Meshkov. Approximately 21.5 percent of voters voted for Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea. [passage omitted]

Election Commission Confirms Results

LD3101070794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0610 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Simferopol, 31 January—Yuriy Meshkov, chairman of the republican movement and of the Republican Party of Crimea, has been elected Crimea's first president. The Electoral Commission's protocol has just been confirmed at the session of the Central Electoral Commission for elections of the president of Crimea, Yuriy Sakharov, deputy chairman of the commission, reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent. Of the citizens entered on the electoral register, 75.12 percent took part in the voting, or 1,427,419 people; 72.92 percent of the electorate who took part in the voting, or 1,040,888 people, voted for Yuriy Meshkov; 23.35 percent of the citizens of Crimea who took part in the elections, or 333,243 people, voted for Nikolay Bagrov.

Meshkov Holds News Conference on Victory

Crimea To Remain Part of Ukraine

LD3001224294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2155 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Simferopol, 30 Jan—Yuriy Meshkov, the chairman of the Republican Party of Crimea, who won today's presidential election, held a news conference this afternoon at the Russian-speaking Movement of Crimea headquarters. He said that a referendum in favor of Crimea's independence within a union with other states will mean that the Republic of Crimea will return to the Constitution of 6 May 1992, according to Article Nine of which the Republic of Crimea remains a part of Ukraine on a confederation basis.

Further on Remarks

LD3101112894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1042 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Simferopol, 31 Jan—The more than substantial number of votes cast for the Russia bloc, which I represent, is confirmation that our policies are the correct ones, Yuriy Meshkov, who was elected the first president of the Republic of Crimea in Sunday's elections, has told journalists in Simferopol. These are the policies of revival, unification, adherence to normal economic laws, and removal of tension between Russia and the Ukraine, he said. These policies are in the best interests of our citizens, citizens of the Republic of Crimea, including their right to mix freely with Russian citizens, the right to dual citizenship and the right to a normal life, of which we have been deprived. The results of the voting provide hope that change will come. This is a vote of confidence for the Russia bloc, a belief that our objectives will be realized.

As has already been reported, Meshkov guaranteed in his election program that the moratorium on a referendum on Crimea's status would be lifted. He promised to return the republic to the ruble zone, to grant Crimeans the right to dual citizenship, and to guarantee peace and national accord in Crimea.

Proposes Referendum on Independence

LD3101101394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Yuriy Meshkov, elected president of Crimea on 30 January, has spoken in favor of holding a referendum on independence. In an interview with journalists he proposed that the referendum be held on 27 March, Interfax reports.

Meanwhile, Nikolay Bagrov, who lost the Crimean presidential election, believes that a referendum would destabilize the situation in the region and aggravate relations between Ukraine and Russia.

Baltin: Sailors Not Pressured in Crimean Vote

LD2901144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin said on Saturday he has not issued any orders to his officers as to whom they should vote for in the second stage of presidential elections in the Crimea to be held on Sunday.

"I have not issued and will not issue any orders to the officers and warrant officers as to whom they should vote for," Baltin said. He believes the Army should be out of politics and servicemen should vote "as their conscience and mind tell them."

The situation in the Black Sea Fleet and in the city of Sevastopol where the fleet headquarters is located remains calm, the press centre of the Black Sea Fleet told ITAR-TASS via telephone.

The city is being patrolled by the police and the Navy. Joint patrolling was launched a month ago to clamp down on the growing crime in the Crimea.

No closed polling stations have been set up for the Navy this time. Navy officers who are residents of the Crimea will vote at their local polling stations, deputy head of the Black Sea Fleet personnel department, said.

Defense Ministry Denies Exercises Linked to Election

LD2901121194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The article "Battle in Crimea, Smoke Is Everywhere," published in the Moscow-based newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on 25 January, contains a number of inaccuracies, probably of a deliberate nature, says a report circulated by the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

The newspaper announced that large-scale exercises of Armed Forces headquarters units and formations took place in certain southern oblasts of Ukraine and in the Crimea from 24-28 January. According to the newspaper, the exercises were connected with the results of the first round of the presidential election on the peninsula.

The press service of the Ukrainian military department, the report indicates further on, had more than once reported about the upcoming strategic exercise that was held from 24-27 January this year under the leadership of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The plan of holding the exercise, aimed at solving the tasks of the country's territorial defense, was approved as far back as November 1993. As for the units and formations of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, they were not involved in the exercise at all.

Officials Forecast Crimea Will Not Join Russia

LD2901141594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov January 29 TASS—Ukraine is closely following the presidential elections in the Crimea. One of popular Ukrainian lawmakers, Mikhail Kosiv from Lvov, whose opinion is heeded by various segments of population, calmed down Ukrainians by saying that the Crimea would not join Russia.

Kosiv who repeatedly visited the peninsula, gave a staggering forecast. He said that the Crimea will belong to Tatars in future, since every second newborn baby now is a Tatar.

In Kosiv's opinion, Turkey is also interested in Tatars' domination of the peninsula: Over 500,000 Crimean Tatars now live in Turkey, and they helped and continue to help their countrymen on the peninsula.

"If we also take into account such a factor as the Ukrainian Fleet on the Black Sea and Ukrainian bases in the Crimea, there will be no problems for Ukraine in that area," Kosiv concluded his forecast.

Yuriy Shukhevich, right-wing leader of the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian People's Self-Defence, who is no less popular in Ukraine's western region than Kosiv, claims that Israel is interested in the Peninsula very much.

"Remember that Jews always dreamt of their own autonomy back in the Soviet Union but in the Crimea rather than in Birobidzhan," he said. "Therefore, I believe that Israel's influence will grow there."

In Shukhevich's opinion, the destiny of the Crimea will be decided not in Simferopol or Sevastopol but in Kiev where, as he believes, there is no firm presidential power for the time being.

Party Blames Government for Meshkov Victory

LD3101125494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] We have received a statement by the press service of the National-Democratic Congress of Ukraine in connection with the victory of Yuriy Meshkov, leader of the Republican Movement of Crimea [RDK], in the Crimean presidential elections. It says, in particular:

The stability of a state is guaranteed by adherence to the fundamental law, both by its citizens and by all branches of power. Unfortunately, Ukraine is one of those states where the Constitution is ignored by many political forces and power structures. The guarantor of the Constitution, the president of Ukraine, resorts to defensive statements as he watches it happen. The presidential elections in the Crimean autonomy were a gross violation of Ukrainian laws, including the Constitution. They

were held in an atmosphere of blatant Ukrainophobia, with the overt financial support of benefactors from the ruble zone.

The Ukrainian state leadership remained, by tradition, on the sidelines, maintaining a so-called balanced stand. These circumstances, as well as the socioeconomic situation in the state, brought RDK leader Meshkov and the Russia political bloc to executive power. The Russian Federation has acquired another lever to exert pressure on Ukraine. This particularly concerns the Black Sea Fleet and the deployment of Russian armed forces on the territory of the Ukrainian state.

The Russian media, particularly Ostankino and Vesti [television channels] competed with one another in asserting that Crimea was choosing a new political course. The RDK leader won the votes of almost half of the adult population in the peninsula. Thus, the results of the voting proved that the Crimean population indeed chose a new course, looking to Russia for the economic transformations and financial injections it promises. Therefore, the results of the Crimean presidential elections give good reason for radical reconsideration of Ukraine's economic policy.

Separatist Meshkov's success is also a result of the absence of a clear information policy in Ukraine aimed at strengthening its statehood. The developments of the past few months showed that Ukraine's leadership fails to command proper weight in the regions. Will officials from the RDK abide by Kiev's laws, while putting forward the declaration of the peninsula's full independence as one of their main objectives?

Paper Sees Start of 'Conflagration' in Crimea

PM3101115194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition pp 1, 5

[Leonid Kapelyushnyy and Nikolay Semena report: "January 1994 Crimean Campaign. Sunday Sees Second Round of Presidential Elections on the Peninsula"]

[Excerpts] Simferopol—Everyone has long been aware that trouble was brewing in the Crimea. Trouble with a host of aspects and shades. But the governments and parliaments of Ukraine and Russia watched the alarming process stony-faced, allowing events to run their course as it were. Thus the Crimea came to see presidential elections with Nikolay Bagrov and Yuriy Meshkov in the final lap.

Nikolay Bagrov is an experienced politician, a product of the system, a former party obkom [oblast committee] first secretary, now chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet. It was he who was behind the revival of a republic in the Crimea and secured its political and economic autonomy.

In Ukraine Bagrov is considered a treacherous separatist, a "Red-cum-Brown." Crimean radicals are thought to be irresolute and trying to ingratiate themselves with Kiev. "Do you want to live as you are? Do you want Kravchuk's rapscallions and humiliation? Then vote for Bagrov!"—that is his political opponents' main idea.

Yuriy Meshkov is a man of the squares. Rallies are his element, slogans and war cries his weapons. He has been a fitter, a soldier, a student at Moscow State University's Faculty of Law, and a Prosecutor's Office investigator. He promises the people of the Crimea a sovereign republic, he promises to bring the Crimea back to the ruble zone and to the bosom of Russia, he also promises the good life soon, and that young men will do their military service on the peninsula. He also says that he wants to heed the harassed, impoverished, desperate people. Most of the points in his program are unfeasible. But they are all Joe Public's dream.... [passage omitted]

To What Kind of Russia Does the Crimea Want To Return?

In the public garden opposite the Crimean Supreme Soviet from morning until evening two dozen citizens, primarily of a venerable age, have been freely cursing Kravchuk and all Ukrainians with their independence and making emotional appeals for the Crimea to be returned to Russia. Yuriy Meshkov is their idol. Zhirinovskiy has spoken here. The gathering warmly applauded the announcement of his intention to become president of Russia and annex [prisoyedinit] the Crimea.

It is easy to see in conversation that these citizens cannot stand President Yeltsin, they do not fete Gaydar and his team for their "shock therapy," and their sympathies lean more toward those who "favor the Soviet Union and Great Russia," a disaster for the whole world.

The 1.5 million Russians in the Crimea form a heterogeneous mass and cannot be identified with the hysterical women in the public garden. In sober, calm conversation they agree that you cannot regrettably bring back the past and that forcibly carving borders spells a bloodbath. But they cannot resign themselves to the fact that they are cut off from Russia and must accept the supremacy of Ukrainian law and acknowledge Ukraine's right to the peninsula.

The Crimean people believe religiously that Mother Russia is waiting with open arms for their "escape from captivity." Presidential candidate Yuriy Meshkov sounds off on every street corner saying that "all matters have been resolved with Russia," from dual citizenship to the Russian ruble's circulation in the Crimea.

The Crimean people's separatism has a firm foundation—the economic collapse in Ukraine. The coupon-karbovanets is bad not because it carries a picture of the Cathedral of Saint Sofia but because it is a Mickey Mouse currency.

Enterprises Choke in Tax Noose

An entrepreneur from Krasnogvardeysk was puzzled as to how "masochistic" a government has to be to render commodity production unprofitable. And he described how they organized production of electric stoves in conjunction with foreign partners.

The goods are in great demand. But taxes have been crushing. He himself bought equipment to manufacture plastic pipes for water supply lines and sewage. Given the current levels of individual housing construction in the Crimea this is a correct, profitable, and necessary business. But the taxes that have been levied from all quarters are so extortionate that the workshop is standing idle.

Needless to say, Dnepr water is a boon, life itself for the steppes. But I. Karamelev, director of the "Tavricheskiy" Sovkhoz in Perekop, spoke of how equipment was standing idle at the height of the field work—there are no spare parts, no fuel, and, most importantly, there is no state interest in ensuring that the land feeds the people. The economy is withering every day.

"We voted for Bagrov. All the country people in the rayon," he said. "Because we see him as stability."

That was how food producers in the Crimea saw N. Bagrov's campaign to shape an open economy on the peninsula, finally extricating the Crimea from Ukraine's ruinous economic policy. As of this January the republic has had its own bank, established its own tax system, and tried to manage autonomously.

Foreboding of Disaster

Rashness mixed with a craving for simple solutions has always cost us plenty. Let us ask ourselves the following question: What will happen to the Crimea in the future? What if Yuriy Meshkov becomes president (and he is very likely to be victorious) and starts putting his slogans into practice? How will the already strained Ukrainian-Russian relations develop then? It is naive to think that even the most moderate politicians in Ukraine will agree to disrupt the state's territorial integrity. After all there are also radical forces, like the national self-defense detachments that have fought in the Dniester Region and Abkhazia and do not come under the jurisdiction of official Kiev. Dynamite and the assault rifle are by no means secondary in their arsenal of arguments, and their experience of wrecking lines of communication in the Caucasus and blockading railroads can easily be transferred to the Crimea. And what then? Without water, without electricity, and without reliable railroad communications the Crimea would indeed be a peninsula.... Would things be better for it then?

A conflagration is starting before our eyes, threatening to burn hot. Why are we keeping silent? Why do we think that embroiling millions of people in an adventure constitutes democracy?

Over many centuries the Perekop Channel [perekopskiy rov] has begun to slowly close up, becoming overgrown with idyllic reeds and losing its defense significance. How I would like to hope that it will not be used for its real purpose at the close of the 20th century.

Kravchuk Sums Up Strategic Command Staff Exercise

LD2801212594 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The strategic command staff exercise in Ukraine's territorial defense ended today.

[Unidentified correspondent] The five-day exercise was held under the supervision of the commander in chief, Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk. The main events took place on maps at the Defense Ministry's training headquarters. This first conceptual training involved all of Ukraine's ministries and state departments. Understandably, the main organizational measures on territorial defense are taken by security organizations. Operational groups of the Defense Ministry, the State Committee for Protection of State Borders, the Security Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Guard, and the Civil Defense went over the entire package of issues related to defense of our state's territory.

At today's session, Lieutenant-General Volodymyr Mykhtyuk, commander of the Strategic Missile Forces, was promoted to colonel general. Also today, after summing up the results of the strategic command staff exercise, the commander in chief, President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk, approved the country's territorial defense plan.

[Begin Kravchuk recording] We proceed from the premise that Ukraine is a peaceful state and will pursue a peaceful policy, a policy of friendship, cooperation, trust, and fulfillment of all international commitments. Therefore, we conclude that we cannot have enemies, since we do not threaten anybody, do not have any territorial claims against anybody, and pursue a peaceful policy, overcoming all obstacles on the way toward nonnuclear status. This is the concept. But life itself is much more complicated and manifold than a concept. Therefore, we cannot rule out the possibility that somebody could develop an urge to test their power on our state and our people, and we must prepare to defend our state and our people, which is envisioned in our concept.

The strategic task we set before ourselves today is the defense of Ukraine, and the readiness of both the armed forces and others for this sacred task of state defense. [end recording]

Paper Views Plans To Set Up National Navy

PM3101105594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 2

["Military Review" article by Vasiliy Dandykin and Vladimir Maryukha: "Ocean-Going...Coastal Fleet. Ukraine Is Creating It Contrary to Common Sense, Striving To Finally Divide the Black Sea Fleet by Any Means"]

[Text] Of all the former union republics which had outlets to seas (the Baltic countries, those in the Caspian region, and Georgia), only Ukraine plans to call itself a naval power in the very near future. If the economic crisis in the republic were not so profound, by the start of the new millennium it would be able to create its own fleet from scratch, as it were. Its scientific potential, the shipbuilding capacities in Nikolayev, Kherson, Kiev, and Kerch, the ships laid down at the time of the "indivisible" Union, and the related enterprises producing turbines, arms, and optical and electronic equipment make it possible to implement a shipbuilding program which meets the needs for defending the republic's sovereignty from the sea. But the backbone of the Ukrainian Navy, which has already been created, goes far beyond the tasks of a coastal fleet. Taking into account the aspirations with regard to dividing the Black Sea Fleet, Ukraine's future fleet is altogether seen as an ocean-going one.

A Fleet of Which Ukraine Never Dreamed

Since it proclaimed the policy of creating national armed forces, Ukraine has followed the principle of having its "own fleet, albeit a small one," capable of defending the republic's coast against military and economic invasion and fulfilling the functions of an emergency rescue service at sea. These tasks are within the capabilities of a brigade—two ships to guard the area of water, several onshore missile and artillery systems, and a combined (ground-attack fighters and helicopters) air regiment. Even now, however, the Slavutich—the flagship of the Ukrainian Navy—and the patrol combatant Sagaydachnyy are clearly confined to the Black Sea in their actions. Like the "Slava"-class guided missile cruiser which is being prepared for sea trials, they need ocean expanses. Ukraine has on the stocks and berthed in shipyards a whole number of other ships whose building is incomplete, including the heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Varyag, for which the Black Sea, figuratively speaking, is like a puddle. Having also gotten half of the Black Sea Fleet, the Ukrainian Navy will outdo even the German Bundesmarine in terms of strength.

Personnel—from seaman to admiral—are also finding the Ukrainian Navy cramped. First, the number of potential seafarers who have taken the oath is far greater than the number of vacancies in the Ukrainian Navy today. Second, the Black Sea Fleet is a kind of forge of cadres, and forms Ukraine's mobilization reserve. Third, in previous years a large number of the republic's citizens served in the Navy—which under conditions of a shortage of employment can very quickly create competition for contract service in the Ukrainian Navy. Finally, an additional influx of personnel can easily be predicted if the decision to split the Black Sea Fleet "50-50" is implemented.

In addition, Ukraine is hurriedly building up the forces of the marines on the Crimean Peninsula. Doctrinally the tactic of using marine landing forces has not yet been agreed upon, the Ukrainian Navy does not have the means of getting them to possible landing sites, with the exception of one "Zubr"-class MDK [small amphibious warfare ship], and more and more people originally from Western Ukraine, who make up the backbone of the Ukrainian Marines, are turning up around Sevastopol and other points where the Black Sea Fleet is based in Crimea. These guys with a sleeve badge in the form of a wolf's jaws have already been used repeatedly as a "detonator" for various kinds of provocations: The takeover of apartment blocks constructed by Black Sea Fleet sailors, the armed "resubordination" of individual Black Sea Fleet units, and so on.

Ukraine also has a training base which is surplus to the requirements of a coastal fleet. This is, first, the Naval Institute based on two higher naval schools, which trains shipboard cadres. Second, the center for retraining flight personnel in Nikolayev and the center for training carrier-based pilots in Saki.

Some Get the Tops, Some the Bottoms

To the nonspecialist a fleet means ships, ships, ships.... But in actual fact, without the umbilical cord of mooring cables connecting ships to the shore, such a fleet will exist for just 30 days—a ship's maximum period of endurance in terms of fuel, water, and food. This was why Ukraine's power minister and first naval commander in chief, who quit the military-political arena not so long ago, campaigned in favor of dividing up the Black Sea Fleet into "tops" and "bottoms": our bases, your ships. Clearly, Russia does not want ships without bases. Anyway, the fleet's onshore backup has never attained civilized norms in the three centuries of its existence. Moving the fleet, which works in the interests of the whole Commonwealth, to unadapted berths overnight would mean ruining it once and for all.

The Ukrainian military department was aware of this, but the demand for just such a "division" has been implemented with a persistence worthy of better application. This has essentially meant ousting the Russian Fleet, which, having no other bases on the Black Sea, would inevitably leave most of the Black Sea Fleet's ships and vessels to Ukraine.

Similar submerged rocks are also inherent in dividing the Black Sea Fleet "50-50." With the sole difference that half the fleet at once passes to Ukraine's jurisdiction, while the rest will then be divided by the same method of ousting. With the present move toward supposedly outwardly more civilized relations with the Black Sea Fleet sailors following the changes in the

Ukrainian military department, the tactic of "tops" and "bottoms" has not lost its topicality. The "tops" (in other words, the creeping privatization of the Black Sea Fleet's onshore infrastructure) are being gathered with the help of those same marines, whose place in Ukraine's military doctrine has not yet been defined. Facilities which at first sight have no bearing on the Black Sea Fleet's combat readiness are being transferred to Ukrainian jurisdiction: the marine engineering service, the housing stock. Moreover, in garrisons remote from the chief base.

And yet the fleet is a multinational structure. The loss of components, albeit not the leading ones, leads inevitably to the breakdown of the entire "organism." There will be no housing on the bases leased by the Black Sea Fleet (there was, at last, talk precisely of leasing during the negotiations between Ukraine and Russia last year), and the onshore infrastructure will not be developed—in the very near future neither Ukraine nor Russia will have any need of the ships themselves.

"To Execute, and No Pardon"

The "joint operation of bases," being imposed by the Ukrainian side, essentially deprives the Black Sea Fleet of any prospects for the future: Disagreements will be sure to arise even between the closest neighbors if, for example, the status of one spade between two is not enshrined in a corresponding agreement.

The crack is being widened by the information blockade and the imposition of the "only correct" information in the Ukrainian interpretation of it: Central Russian publications, including KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, do not reach Crimea, television broadcasting is limited in terms of time and the number of programs, and the press center of the Ukrainian Navy—the ideological mouthpiece for the division of the Black Sea Fleet—has a staff many times greater than that of the press center of the Black Sea Fleet.

It is no wonder that, given this distribution of forces in the "fourth estate," justification is found for any tricks by the Ukrainian marines, by their commanders who pit their subordinates against the "cursed Muscovites [moskalivy]," and by higher officials who are impatiently awaiting the "black redivision" of the Black Sea Fleet. Alas, we have to state that in the Ukrainian fleet, which essentially has not yet come into being, hatred for everything "non-Ukrainian" is cultivated far better than common sense and the age-old friendship of the Slav peoples. We who have prepared this material and who represent both branches of the peoples who grew out of the single Slav root find it all the more unpleasant to be aware of this. For, in tracing the dynamics of the situation, we do not rule out the least favorable development of events. The intensity of passion in Crimea and in the Black Sea Fleet and the deepening crisis in Ukraine's economy and policy are such that it will only take the slightest provocation (these, let us dare to assert, are not excluded from the arsenal of the "political" struggle for possession of the peninsula and the fleet) and blood will flow.

So far the signal has not been given for a general "offensive" against the Black Sea Fleet, and individual "battles" of local significance are being waged. These include "freezing" the Black Sea Fleet's accounts in Ukrainian banks and levying all kinds of taxes and customs and other duties, whose total, if it has not exceeded the Ukrainian "share" of the funds once allocated to maintaining the fleet, at least long ago became commensurate with it. Even the food and fuel imported from Russia, with which Ukrainian seamen satisfy their needs, are requisitioned. The sums recovered in this way go into the Ukrainian Navy's budget. In these conditions the Black Sea Fleet sailors should campaign to ensure that there is no tax on air imported from Russia.

In other words, both the republic's leadership and the Ukrainian Navy Command are doing everything to ensure that, instead of the Black Sea Fleet on the southern flank of the CIS, there is a weak Russian fleet based in unadapted places and an enlarged Ukrainian fleet capable of operating far outside the Black Sea. At the same time the Ukrainian side disregards the fact that the division (in fact, the ruin) of the Black Sea Fleet will result in an imbalance of forces in the region—which will infringe Russia's legitimate interests. This means that, in carrying out its sentence in respect of the Black Sea Fleet ("to execute, and no pardon"), Ukraine could come up against the fact that its "ocean-going coastal" fleet will not protect its personal interests, which are defended today, albeit to its own detriment, by the Black Sea Fleet.

Assumed composition and specifications and performance characteristics of ships of the Ukrainian Navy after dividing up the Black Sea Fleet "50-50"

Type of ship	Guided missile ships			ASW ships and patrol combatants		
	BRK	MRK	Slava-class TKR	BPK	SKR	SKR-159
Specifications and performance characteristics:						
Displacement, tonnes	about 3,000	600	about 9,000	about 3,000	about 3,200	1,000
Speed, knots	32	35	30	34	30	32
Range, miles	over 4,000	2,000	about 6,000	3,500	4,500	2,000
Endurance, days	25	10	30	20	30	10
Armament:						

aircraft	-	-	helicopter	-	-	-
missile	4x1 PKRK	2x3 PKRK	8x2 PKRK	ZRK	ZRK	-
	ZRK	ZRK	ZRK			
artillery	2x2 76mm	1x2 57mm	1x2 130mm	2x2 76mm	2x2 76mm	3x1 100mm
	4x6 30mm		6x6 30mm	4x6 30mm		2x2 37mm
ASW	TA 533mm	-	RGB	TA, RGB	4x1 PLRK	RGB
	RGB				TA, RGB	
Comment	obsolete	-	partially complete	being withdrawn from Black Sea Fleet	-	obsolete

Key:
BRK—large guided missile ship
BPK—large ASW ship
PKRK—antiship missile system
ZRK—antiaircraft missile system
RGB—rocket-propelled depth charges
MRK—small guided missile ship
SKR—patrol combatant
PLRK—antisubmarine rocket weapon system
TA—torpedo tubes.

Supreme Council Approves 1994 Development Plan

LD2801210894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The parliament in Kiev has approved a resolution on this year's economic and social development plan which provides for a 8.6 percent decline in the GDP. The plan also envisages a 2.3 percent growth in industrial output and a 7.1 percent in the farming sector.

Consumer production is to be increased by 5.7 percent with export revenues being planned at the level of $1.3 Bn.

The cabinet is given two weeks in which to approve the volume of state orders and contracts and inform appropriate ministries, departments and local governments.

Chairman of the planning, budget and price commission Andrey Pecherov told parliament that this year's government guidelines had been changed to the detriment of "market methods" though this was necessary in the emerging conditions.

For his part, Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilskiy warned against fearing the administrative methods of economic management saying "no country in the world has abided without them, particularly at the time of crisis." He called on deputies to allow the National Bank to provide the government with a loan of 12 Tn karbovantsy to be repaid in the second half of this year.

After four rounds of voting, the government-proposed budget was defeated. Some deputies described as utopian the government's offer of a non-deficit budget.

Head of the defence and security commission Valentin Lemish said the proposed defence spending of 16.9 Tn karbovantsy or 4.8 of total expenditure did not cover the defence ministry's needs.

Cabinet Toughens Grip on Domestic Oil Prices

LD2801204594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev—The government has made public the resolution "On the State Regulation of Prices for Petroleum Products," signed by Acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy on 25 January. In accordance with the resolution, prices for petroleum products, including those purchased as imports, that are sold on the territory of Ukraine by entrepreneurial entities regardless of the forms of their ownership, must not exceed the levels established.

The price for oil bought in CIS countries under interstate contracts is accepted at the level determined by these contracts. The price for oil bought under direct contracts [between enterprises] or from commercial structures, must not exceed that level by more than 10 percent. The price for oil imported from other countries cannot exceed the world price.

Wholesale and factory prices for petroleum products produced by Ukraine's oil refineries and sold by them on the domestic market are determined with account taken of the maximum level of profitability to the amount of 25 percent of the full cost price of the manufacture of products.

In selling petroleum products on the territory of Ukraine, including imported petroleum products—except for fuel for domestic use in stoves and as lamp kerosene, the following maximum levels of profitability are established, as applied to the turnover of these products: For oil and petroleum products of supply enterprises under the control of DerzhKomNaftoHaz, no more than seven percent; for enterprises and organizations within UkrAhroTekhServis, no more than 1.5 percent.

Government Amends Resolution on State Licenses

LD3001133194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Kiev—By its resolution of 26 January 1994 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine introduced partial changes to the resolution of 15 January 1991 "On the procedure of issuing special permissions (licences) to carry out certain kinds of activity and on the amount of payments for the state registration of the subjects of entrepreneurship." New payment amounts have been set for citizens and legal entities—subjects of entrepreneurial activity—for the issue of licences by the Ministry of Transport to carry out agency services for the merchant marine port [as received] in the sea and river ports of Ukraine. In Odessa, Ilyichevsk, Kherson, Yuzhnoye, and Mariupol ports this is $800,000 per port; in the ports of Berdyansk, Nikolayev, Kherson, Izmail, and Reni this is $400,000; in Belgorod-Dunayskiy, Kiliya, Yalta, and in all river ports this is $200,000 per port.

The resolution stipulates that these payments are to be made in foreign currency (with the availability of the National Bank licence) or in Ukraine's currency converted according to the National Bank exchange rate at the time of issue. Besides, the principal marine agencies of the Ukrainian Ministry of Transport are exempt for five years from any payments for the issue of licenses to carry out agency services for the merchant marine fleet. The resolution also stipulates that 90 percent of the monies received for the issue of licenses are transferred to the currency account of the Ministry of Finance, if paid in foreign currency, and to the state budget, if paid in Ukraine's currency. The rest of the sum remains at the disposal of the Ministry of Transport.

Candidates Register for Upcoming Elections

MK2901130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 4

[Konstantin Parishkura report: "The Good News: Deputies Get Registered. The Bad News: Missing Rukh Secretariat Head Has Not Yet Been Found"]

[Text] The registration of candidates running for Ukraine's Supreme Soviet, new convocation, has been completed in district electoral commissions. A considerable part of the current deputies are running again for the Supreme Soviet. Political parties' preparations for the elections have barely started. To take place on 29 January is a congress of the "party of power"—the Labor Congress of Ukraine—and on 5 February there will be a congress of one of the most influential parties—the Party of Democratic Revival of Ukraine, to discuss questions connected with the upcoming 27 March elections.

In the eastern part of Ukraine, parties of democratic centrist tendency have nominated few delegates, not enough to go around all the election districts. Even so they could not split up the zones of influence between themselves. For example, the rivals in Kharkov will be Volodymyr Grinev, former deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet and chairman of the "New Ukraine" association, and Genrikh Altunyan, head of the Kharkov Kray organization of the People's Rukh of Ukraine. In Odessa, Eduard Gurvits, rather influential there, will contend against current Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk.

In Crimea, currently carried away with presidential elections, not all election districts have nominated candidates. The deadline for their nomination will apparently be moved forward because there will be simultaneous elections for Crimea's Supreme Soviet.

It did not go without scandals. For example, People's Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil accused Valentin Nedrigaylo, first deputy internal affairs minister, who was supposed to report to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine the results of the search for Mikhail Boychishin, head of the Rukh secretariat who has been missing since 15 January, of trying to shift the case from the political into the purely criminal sphere. This is naturally disadvantageous to Rukh. As for the lost chief of the Rukh secretariat, no traces of him have been found to date, nor is there even a plausible explanation for his disappearance.

Trade Union Assembly Coordinates Election Stands

LD3001115094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Lvov, 29 January—A meeting of the Coordinating Council of the All-Ukrainian Association of Working People's Solidarity [VOST] has been held here. The participants worked out the trade union association's tactics in the election campaign and considered VOST's participation in the election. VOST Chairman Oleksandr Dzhulyk provided data on the membership organizations and the situation around VOST, pointing out that interference in the affairs of VOST on the part of alien forces (parties and organizations) was inadmissible. The Coordinating Council indicated that the main task VOST is concentrating its efforts on is the protection of the social and economic interests of the working people. VOST's platform is based on the principles of the struggle for a mighty, united, law-governed, independent, and prosperous Ukraine for mutually advantageous and equal relations with all the countries of the world. The Coordinating Council participants made a decision on VOST members participation in ensuring proper control during the election.

The Coordinating Council also considered the economic situation at the enterprises of Ukraine and discussed the issue on concluding collective agreements, salaries, and protection of labor. The participants pointed out that VOST favors the market economy, which includes privatization on a nation-wide scale, emancipation of peasants, state support to the strategic industries, private farming, development of spirituality, education, and culture, a reform of the political system and a reform of

the insurance system (medical, social, and pension insurance with the compulsory insurance of the employer and the hired employee.)

Belarus

Myechyslaw Hryb Elected Parliament Speaker

Candidates for Post Outline Programs

LD2801133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1241 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Minsk January 28 TASS—Three candidates for the post of Belarusian parliament speaker outlined their programmes for future activities on Friday.

Myechyslaw Hryb noted that he fully supports the government programme for pulling the country out of the present crisis situation. He sees the speaker's task in helping legislators to come to mutual understanding on the basis of respect for opinions of opponents.

The candidate pointed to the need to abide by law. "We shall pull out of the crisis after we unite and establish law and order in the republic," the legislator stressed.

He noted that he is against changing the present foreign policy, does not intend to raise a question on remapping borders and advocates independence, the nuclear-free status of the republic and implementation of the signed international treaties.

Hryb stressed that he supports the development of relations between Belarus and the east, above all with great Russia, which should not prevent the republic from establishing good contacts with the west.

Speaking of crime, Hryb, chairman of the parliamentary commission on national security, defence and crime control, said: "There is much talk, but results are too modest".

Accusations of lawlessness in the country forced former speaker Stanislav Shushkevich and two power-wielding ministers to step down.

The present situation will possibly be a new stage in the political career of the chairman of the parliamentary commission which is also responsible for the negative operation of law enforcement bodies, condemned by the Belarusian parliament. The programme-setting speech by Mikhail Marynych was short. He said that he sees two main directions in the speaker's activities: rallying of lawmakers to tackle economic problems and to strengthen the young statehood of the country.

Viktar Hanchar explained his decision to contest the speaker's post by desire to express "his protest at shadow politicians who regard themselves cardinals" at the Belarusian parliament.

The legislator underlined that it is necessary to take a decision limiting powers of parliament speaker and vesting him with strictly speaker's functions. Hanchar advocated reasonable continuity of power: to hold presidential elections late in April and early general elections in September.

Instead of electing a new speaker, which was scheduled for 12:00, local time, lawmakers began to discuss the candidates. Initially, this procedural item was forgotten in the heated atmosphere in the parliament building.

The debate was brief. The floor was taken only by one legislator—representative from the opposition Vitaliy Malashko. He said that the opposition did not intend to participate in "this cheap show" and called on all other lawmakers to follow suit.

Then the session adjourned till 13:00, local time.

No Chairman Named in 1st Round

WS2801160994 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The first round of voting for the Supreme Soviet chairman has taken place. There were three candidates appearing on the ballot: Myechyslaw Hryb, chairman of the Supreme Soviet National Security Commission, Defense, and Combating Crime; Mikhail Marynych, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; and Viktar Hanchar, deputy chairman of the Molodechno City Council. The candidacy of Myechyslaw Hryb was supported by the largest number of votes—169 in favor and 88 against; he was five votes short of becoming the Supreme Soviet chairman. The candidacy of Mikhail Marynich was supported by 51 votes; against—206. Viktar Hanchar was supported by 24 votes; against—233. M. Hryb and M. Marynich will participate in the second round of voting. The results of this round will be reported about 2000 [1800 GMT].

Hryb Requests Deputies' Support

WS2801200694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Official results of the election for Belarusian Supreme Soviet chairman were announced about two hours ago. Myechyslaw Hryb received 183 votes in his favor and 65 votes against his candidacy. Here is a brief outline of his personal history:

Myechyslaw Hryb is a lawyer. He was born into a peasant family 57 years ago. His father died in World War II. He graduated from a college in the Ministry of Interior Affairs. In his military service, he rose to the rank of general and was head of the Interior Affairs Administration of the Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee. In 1990, he was elected to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet and named head of the legislative commission for national security, defense, and combating crime. He supports a strong power base and presidency in the Belarusian Republic. Myechyslaw Hryb supports ratification of the [CIS] Treaty on Collective Security. In his own words, he has always fulfilled his parliamentary obligations based on the substance of problems rather than personal preferences or animosities. Although all of us were involved in the old system, we must look ahead,

he said. Here is what Myechyslaw Hryb told the people's deputies after he was elected Supreme Soviet chairman.

[Begin Hryb recording] Esteemed People's Deputies and Journalists! Let me express my sincere appreciation for the trust you displayed in me through this vote. I have always said, and will say it again now, that this post is extremely responsible and complex. I will try to perform my duties as my conscience dictates, and will do my best in this post. I hope that all of you will join me and actively help me in my duties. Because I will do nothing without you. [applause] [end recording]

Hryb Addresses Deputies

LD2801195794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1831 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Minsk, 28 Jan (BELINFORM-TASS)—In his first speech to deputies, Myechyslaw Hryb, the new head of the Belarus Supreme Soviet declared that he will endeavor to perform his duties in a conscientious and dignified way. He will try to rely on a majority in parliament and his first moves will be directed toward improving the work of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet—deputies are at present divided and understand each other poorly. There will be no change to foreign policy priorities.

Describing his attitude toward Stanislav Shushkevich, the new chairman of the Supreme Soviet said it was normal. He stressed that the former speaker has many fine qualities, but like anyone else he also has adverse traits: Shushkevich and I differed only on certain aspects of politics in relation to the CIS countries' collective security agreement.

Hryb regretted that the process of adopting the new Constitution has been subject to unjustified delay in parliament and stressed that ever since entering parliament he has constantly called for the introduction of a presidency with the functions of head of the executive authorities.

Hryb decribed the prospects for Belarus-Russian relations as extremely good. We are Slavs, we are neighbors. I have high hopes regarding the arrival in Minsk of a Russian Government delegation headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin. Hryb supports the idea of combining the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus and hopes that the same prices for fuel will apply in both states.

The new chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet dwelt on his attitude to the concept of neutrality. He announced that to be neutral is our wish, but pure neutrality is at present impossible because a foreign state's troops are on Belarus soil and will remain there under treaty until the year 2000. He supported [Prime Minister Vyacheslav] Kebich's idea of reorganizing the government.

Hryb on Need for Ties With Russia

LD2801184094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Zhuk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to results of the second round of voting [in the Belarus Supreme Soviet], Myachyslaw Hryb won the necessary number of votes. He is chairman of the parliamentary Commission for National Security, Defense, and Prevention of Crime. [video shows Hryb talking to correspondent]

[Hryb] I am very confident that without unity and consolidation of all the forces, especially between the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Supreme Soviet itself, we shall find it very difficult to get out of the present economic crisis. We should seriously address the problems of our economy and the questions of strengthening our economic ties with the Russian Federation.

Hryb Backs CIS Collective Security

LD2901154094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The newly elected Belarusian Parliament's Speaker Myechyslaw Hryb has told Interfax that he will spare no effort to consolidate political forces in the Republican Supreme Soviet. "Being very divided, we can hardly overcome the crisis today", he said.

Hryb was elected to the post of speaker on Friday to replace Stanislav Shushkevich, ousted by parliament.

The chairman-elect stressed the need for reforming the system of state power and spoke in favour of presidency in Belarus. In his opinion, it would be reasonable to choose a new president first and then elect a new parliament.

Calling himself a staunch advocate of his republic's participation in CIS collective security system, Hryb underlined that "it's too early to speak about Belarus pure neutrality" now when there is a contingent of troops from a neighboring state (meaning Russia - IF) in Belarus." He explained that Minsk and Moscow were bound by accords according to which the withdrawal of Russian troops from Belarus would proceed "during certain time."

Hryb declared that his election would keep the republic's former policy toward Russia intact, nor would it affect plans to integrate the monetary systems of the two countries and set up a firm economic alliance.

He favorably assessed Kebich's activity as Premier and gave him credit for bringing the economies of Belarus and Russia together.

Hryb Holds News Conference

LD2901180294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1622 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Hryb comments are recorded]

[Excerpts] Our correspondent Petr Makritskiy attended the first news conference given by Myechyslaw Hryb, the new speaker of the Belarus parliament. [passage omitted] Outlining his main positions on getting the republic out of crisis, Mechyslav Ivanovich focused on the possibility of new elections.

[Hryb] We assume—as I have said before—that we must resolve the issue of how our state system is structured. Whether we should we have a strong president, elected by the people; or perhaps the Supreme Soviet will decide that we should have a parliamentary republic. I absolutely do not rule out the likelihood that this issue will be raised in the Supreme Soviet in the future.

[Makritskiy] The new chairman was asked what his first steps would be in his new post.

[Hryb] I shall try to look into the activities of our Supreme Soviet. We are not pulling together at all at the moment, and in our present situation it will be very difficult to emerge from the critical economic state we are in. We must learn to listen to one another, understand one another; we have a lot to learn in the way of patience in our work.

[Makritskiy] The journalists asked whether there would be any change in the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Belarus.

[Hryb] Our state's foreign policy course will not change. Our course has been set: peace, friendship with all states, with all peoples, recognition of our existing borders—we recognize those borders which are established today. We are Slavs, we are neighbors, we hope to be good neighbors, first and foremost to Russia and the Russian people, to treat one another with respect.

[Makritskiy] Journalists got the following reply to a question about the unification of the monetary systems of Belarus and Russia:

[Hryb] I support the point of view voiced by esteemed Stanislav Shushkevich in regard to the unification of currencies and exchange rates and fuel prices. This option would suit us very well indeed, then we could somehow regulate the prices of our goods and sell them on the Russian Federation market.

Kebich Plans 'Drastic' Government Reshuffle

LD2801174694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1714 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Minsk, 28 Jan (BELINFORM-TASS)—Speaking about his attitude to the current developments in the Belarusian Parliament, Vyacheslav Kebich, the chairman of the Belarusian Council of Ministers has said that in accordance with the results of the vote of confidence in the prime minister, he has a full moral right to carry out a drastic government reshuffle, which he in fact intends to do.

Regrets Vote on Shushkevich

LD2801152194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Minsk January 28 TASS—Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich regretted that the legislature expressed no-confidence in speaker Stanislav Shushkevich and noted that they were unanimous in the main approaches to reforming the Belarusian state. He expressed opinion that the former speaker's knowledge and prestige would serve Belarus for long time in future.

The Belarusian government press service circulated here on Friday the premier's replies to questions on how he appraises parliament's vote against Shushkevich. Kebich said the following:

"I regret what has happened. Sure, we had some differences with Shushkevich on how to reform society and to build a sovereign state. Incidentally, I'd like to note that the press was often helpful in lending these differences unduly exaggerated, I would say, hypertrophic importance.

"However, we used to find a common language with Shushkevich on the main thing. We were at one on strategic approaches to reforming Belarusian society and saw our main task in ensuring the transition of the republican economy to market relations without any extreme actions and social upheavals.

"We wanted to prevent a sharp drop in living standards, to create gradually appropriate conditions and prerequisites for national revival and to maintain stability, accord and civil peace on Belarusian soil.

"We did our best for Belarus to become a full-fledged member of the international community and to turn into a European and civilised power."

Further on Shushkevich

LD2801182494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 19 (509) for 28 January 1994, by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Regarding how he viewed the Supreme Soviet's decision to remove Shushkevich, Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich gave an interview to the government press service. Here is the text of the interview which was made public by the government press service.

"I regret what happened. Of course, Stanislav Stanislavovich and I sometimes had certain differences over the ways to reform society and to build a sovereign state. By

the way let me note that with the help of the press this fact was often exaggerated and, I should say, somewhat overblown.

"However, on the whole Shushkevich and I managed to find a common language. We agreed on strategical approaches to the reform of Belarusian society, and we thought that our main goals were to guarantee the transition to a market economy in the republic without extremism or social disasters, to prevent a sharp decline in the living standards of the population, to gradually create necessary conditions for national revival and to preserve stability, accord and civil peace on our land. We did all we could to represent Belarus in the international community as a dignified state and to make it a European civilized power.

"In today's complex situation we should act thoughtfully and carefully. Taking important political steps and decisions we should remember that we are living not in an isolated world, that our CIS neighbours and 'far-away' foreign countries closely monitor the developments in Belarus, and count on the continuity of the policy pursued by the parliament and the government of the republic.

"In recent years we spent too much time and effort on the destruction and settlement of political accounts. Obviously, it's time to stop that and to start a concrete creative work for the economic restructuring, the privatization in the interests of the people and the creation of adequate living conditions for the people. Let me state with all responsibility that the reform is irreversible. We will persistently continue the planned reforms, strengthening our union with Russia and developing friendship with other states.

"And the last thing I would like to say in this connection. We should understand the current state of Shushkevich like human beings and support him at this difficult time."

According to Shushkevich's press secretary Valeriy Vorobyov, currently the ex-speaker is in his personal countryside house. In the evening of the day he was dismissed the government communication line with his house was disconnected, but it was decided that a limited number of personal guards should stay with him.

Shushkevich Appointment as CIS Assembly Chief Ruled Out

LD2801175794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1652 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Minsk, 28 Jan (BELINFORM-TASS)—Following the reports that Stanislav Shushkevich has responded positively to the proposal of Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, that Shushkevich should be given the post of chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, Ivan Korotchenya, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, told a BELINFORM correspondent today that only a head of parliament can occupy this post. Therefore, after Stanislav Shushkevich's resignation his appointment to this post is out of the question.

Shushkevich Interviewed on Removal, Future Plans

LD3001192494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1659 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Vladimir Glod for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 30 Jan—For three days following his removal from the post of Supreme Soviet chairman of the Republic of Belarus, Stanislav Shushkevich gave no interviews. The reason: The need to let the emotions cool, calm down, and think about many things.

I found Stanislav Shushkevich at his dacha, 45 kilometers from Minsk. Here he has 450 square meters of land in a university allotment society. Compared to the other buildings here, his looks like a toadstool among chanterelles. "I do not have any other dachas," the ex-speaker explained. "Neither I, nor my family, ever lived in the one issued to me by the Supreme Soviet Presidium. It was only used as a residence for official receptions."

Almost everything at the dacha is Shushkevich's own work. He did use the services of the Maintenance and Construction Department attached to the Council of Ministers when he needed welding and plastering work done, and paid for it in full. "If anyone thinks that this department works for cheap, then they are completely wrong. Over the past two years all my wages have been ploughed into this dacha. We are living on my wife's money."

When Vice Rector Shushkevich moved out of his two-room apartment in a university block for a new home he did not leave it to his mother-in-law, as was alleged in parliament by Aleksandr Lukashenko, the chairman of the Commission on Organized Crime, but handed it back to the university. It is now occupied by a Mr. Klevchen, a lecturer at that establishment.

I deliberately mention this in detail, because one of the allegations made against Shushkevich when he lost his post was of personal immodesty. To my puzzled question of why he is telling me this instead of the Supreme Soviet, the former speaker answered: "That is the way I was brought up. I was taught that there is a presumption of innocence. So I think it below my dignity to get involved in a debate on this dirt. But I also cannot prove that I am not a camel."

Stanislav Shushkevich said that if time were to transport him back to his university lecture theater, he would still have taken the same path. "There was a lot I wanted to do, but it was impossible to escape the realities when my options were restricted. My main goal was to create Belarusian statehood, so that a sovereign, democratic,

and civilized state appeared in Europe. I really wanted our Supreme Soviet to be democratic, and less polarized, unruly and confrontation-minded, I wanted it to be centrist. But unfortunately, in this I failed."

Asked about the true reasons for his departure, the former Supreme Soviet chairman replied: "I do not suit the majority in this Supreme Soviet. It does not want to build a new society, and most of the deputies we have now want to return to the old order. To this day I cannot understand how I managed to get to lead the Supreme Soviet. The Communist majority in Autumn 1991 was fantastically frightened, and my election was a chance occurrence, not an inevitability."

Shushkevich acknowledged that he now realizes that he underestimated the bureaucratic games. "It was hugely difficult for me. My first deputy was often ill. On at least 10 occasions I proposed candidates for the vacant post of deputy to the head of the Supreme Soviet, and every time these people, including the current chairman, Myechyslaw Hryb, blocked me. Now I realize that most of them were doing this deliberately, so that I could not rely on an assistant to handle the economic or organizational issues."

Two other circumstances were a strong hindrance to the ex-speaker. First, there was no centrist bloc in the Belarus Supreme Soviet, which instead was split into a huge majority and small opposition. Secondly, the Supreme Soviet, which was not made up of professional MPs, became an offshoot of the executive. I asked Shushkevich whether, realizing his powerlessness, he had ever wanted to just quit and slam the door behind him. He answered: "No, I did not, and for one reason alone. I felt that as the Supreme Soviet head there was, nonetheless, a time when I would be able to counter the anti-reformists."

Stanislav Shushkevich thinks that the ideal system for Belarus is a parliamentary republic. But mindful of the overall instability and fractiousness, it is essential to temporarily elect a president. Will he run for election? "I have not yet made up my mind," he replied.

Asked whether his departure is a precedent for Boris Yeltsin or Leonid Kravchuk, Stanislav Shushkevich said that the events in Belarus should not be compared to those in Russia or the Ukraine.

The ex-speaker confessed that he expected to have to go at least a month earlier. The parliamentary majority was strongly against U.S. President Clinton coming to Minsk and recognizing Belarus as an independent European state. "I am delighted that Clinton's visit and the talks between our countries went ahead and that he was able to form an opinion about Belarus," Stanislav Shushkevich said.

Comparing the pace of economic reform in Belarus and Russia, the former speaker said that Russia, under the guidance of Yegor Gaydar, for whom he has enormous respect, has moved on ahead. Belarus has noticeably lagged behind its partner to the East. Over 70 years of Communist influence have shown itself to have had a far from good impact on the psychology of the Belarusian people. "If the market reforms are scrapped, then I would have the gloomiest of forecasts for the future," Stanislav Shushkevich said.

"The market reforms in Belarus were never properly formulated," Shushkevich commented, which is why he fears that Belarus could fall behind in this process.

Stanislav Shushkevich said this of his successor, Myechyslaw Hryb: "We get on normally, although we differed on the Collective Security Treaty. Myechyslaw Ivanovich can adapt to any situation and, I have to think, his candidature is fully to the liking of the present Supreme Soviet."

On his plans for the near future, he said, "I have only had 10 days vacation during the past year, and now I want to take a break for a while. I will probably go to Bonn for a week, because I have a long-standing invitation to read some lectures. After that, we will see."

Papers Comment on Removal of Shushkevich

LD3001104394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By BELINFORM for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 30 TASS—Stanislav Shushkevich's removal from the speaker's post was inevitable, Belarusian newspapers say commenting upon last changes in the Belarusian parliament.

According to RESPUBLIKA (THE REPUBLIC), Shushkevich has become disagreeable to everybody in the parliament.

"The parliament majority was not satisfied with his strongly negative attitude to the treaty on collective security, his uncertain stance on prospects of uniting Russian and Belarusian monetary systems, as well as on what sort of state system should be created in Belarus, and his keep-away from economic problems.

"On the other hand, Shushkevich was objectionable to the parliament opposition who has shifted to radical nationalist or apparently pro-western views", the newspaper says.

In RESPUBLIKA's opinion, another reason for ousting the unconvenient leader was that it was necessary to find and publicly demonstrate the major "culprit" of the delay in drafting a new constitution to masque the parliament's own failures. Otherwise, the parliament would face a threat of early elections, no faction in the parliament was interested in.

However, according to the newspaper, Shushkevich's removal can hardly solve the parliament's problems, it will rather generate new ones. A "buffer" policy of the former speaker, though not facilitating the work on the

draft constitution, sometimes made it possible to find a compromise between different factions and groups in the parliament.

We cannot say with certainty that this will be possible insofar, as the parliament is now broken into two uncompromising camps, the newspaper concludes.

"Shushkevich appeared a weak politician, who failed to realize until the very end that he does not fit the post", Anatoliy Maysenya, president of the centre for strategic studies "East-West" said in an interview with the SEM DNEY (the SEVEN DAYS), one of the most popular weekly papers in the republic.

"His (Shushkevich's) permanent complaints about the lack of powers, about a relativity of the very post of the speaker only prove this", he added. "Genuine politicians never ask for power, they struggle for it and take it, and this is the essence of policy-making".

"He has become a sort of stationary scenery picturing democratic hopes on the Belarusian political scene, over which both those marching to the right and those going to the left have become stumbling with an increasing frequency. Nothing has changed with his ousting".

"Stanislav Shushkevich failed to protect himself and his values", Maysenya resumes.

However, the Belarusian press does not give much attention to Shushkevich, being more concerned over the future. "People are tired", chief editor of SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA (the SOVIET BELARUS) Igor Osinskiy writes addressing both the speaker and the deputies.

"Our politicians are living in the vacuum, they do not hear and understand not only each other but the people on whose behalf they are acting and to whose opinion they like to refer.

"If they could hear people, the former speaker would be ashamed to state that the Belarusians whole-heartedly welcomed the Mishkuli agreement. If they could hear people, the parliament opposition would know that the Belarusians are against the imposed Belarusification and break of relations with Russia."

"You have exhausted the patience of the people, gentlemen. Go home", Osinsky says.

National Bank Aide on Monetary Union With Russia

PM2801143594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 3

["INTERFAX" report: "Look Before You Leap"]

[Text] The monetary union between Belarus and Russia has no future, Valeriy Dashkevich, counselor to the Belarus National Bank chief, stated.

V. Dashkevich considers that "Gaydar acted correctly, as you cannot combine market methods of managing the economy with administrative ones."

In Dashkevich's opinion, if the Russian and Belarusian Governments adopt such a decision, it "will soon demonstrate its unviability and force Belarus to return to setting up a full-fledged monetary system."

"If a short-term effect is possible at the initial stage, the negative consequences associated with superimposing Russia's internal economic disorder onto the Belarusian economy, will become apparent by the end of the year."

The Russian Federation and Belarusian premiers signed a statement in Moscow on the upcoming union of the two countries' monetary systems.

Official Calls For Oil Cooperation With Iran

LD2901215794 Tehran IRNA in English 1958 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 29, IRNA—Chairman of the State Committee of Belarus' Foreign Economy Relations, Mr. Radkovich, today called on the Islamic Republic for economic cooperation with his republic especially in the area of oil and petrochemical industries.

In his meeting with the accredited Iranian ambassaodr in Minsk, Behzad Mazaheri, he reviewed outlooks for economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries. He said Belarus has potentials in the area of auto manufacturing and expressed hope that the two countries could cooperate in the execution of industrial projects.

The Russian [as received] official also expressed hope that the documents pertaining to that cooperation would be signed by the Iranian officials and the prime minister of Belarus, Vyacheslav Kebich, during his forthcoming visit to Tehran.

Paper: 800 Air Force Pilots Have Left for Russia

LD2801223994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1540 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By unidentified BELINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, 28 Jan—Almost 800 Belarusian Air Force pilots have left the Armed Forces of Belarus and are now guarding the skies of Russia. Those who have left accounted for 60 percent of air crews of the Belarus Air Force, the RESPUBLIKA government newspaper reports today.

The Belarus Airborne Assault Troops have also been considerably weakened by the mass exodus to Russia: 339 officers have joined the Russian forces. The republic's Committee for the Social Protection of Servicemen reports that a further 2,500 officers want to go to Russia. The problem is made worse by the fact that over half the Belarus men graduating from Russian military colleges

in 1994 have already signed up to serve in its' Armed Forces. The main reason for this is that a higher level of social guarantees are enjoyed there.

Moldova

Dniester Leader Issues Decrees on Consolidation

AU2901211994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1728 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 28/1/1994—From our correspondent: Today's DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA published the decree signed by Dniester President Igor Smirnov on applying measures of consolidation of the so-called Dniester Republic. The document mentions that citizenship is a necessary attribute of the republic's sovereignty. Starting with February 15th 1994, posts of leaders of state bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations can only be granted to persons having Dniester citizenship. These stipulations of the decree also concern state functionaries. Leaders not pursuing to the document will be fired, the document states. Minister and departments are obliged to present until February 20th information on the decree's fulfillment. Until now, a large part of east regions population, including state functionaries and deputies, have refused to adopt the citizenship of the self-proclaimed republic. Those who adopted it do not exceed 60,000 or 10 percent of the region's population. Previously, it was decided to prolong the term of registering the citizenship until January 1st 1995.

Dniester Parliament Head Backs Talks With Moldova

LD2801193294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1334 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 28 TASS—The chairman of the Dniester Republic's Supreme Soviet, Grigoriy Marakutsa, announced on Monday that he sees no reason why the republic should not engage in negotiations with the Moldovan leadership on the status of the still-unrecognized breakaway republic.

Marakutsa thinks that the problems which have recently arisen are due to the trial of the "Ilascu group", whose six members, supporters of the Moldovan Popular Front, were convicted by Tiraspol (the capital of the Dniester republic) of committing acts of terrorism during last year's military conflict in the Trans-Dniester region.

According to Marakutsa, international organisations have appealed to Tiraspol not to carry out the death penalty given to Ilie Ilascu, the leader of the group. "We are not going to insist" on the ultimate punishment, the republic's parliamentary leader declared, "but the convicted have to be punished somehow".

According to Marakutsa, "the possibility of a new independent court investigation of the Ilascu group, as many international organisations have proposed, has not been ruled out".

Newspaper Views Ways To Solve Dniester Problem

AU2901211394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1728 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRES, 28/1/1994—Dniester's problem will be solved only by the new Moldovan leadership once the consequences of Ribbentrop-Molotov pact are liquidated and territories occupied after World War II are returned with the participation of the interested states—Romania and Ukraine, says the newspaper GLASUL NATIUNII (Voice of Nation). Dniester practically no longer belongs to Moldova, states the newspaper. The lasting negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol, the war in summer 1992, and the Ilascu trial proves that Moldovan authorities have no influence on so-called Dniester Republic, says the newspaper. Moldovans no longer represent 40 percent of Dniester population, most of them were assimilated by the Ukrainian and Russian ethnics. The newspaper appraises that Dniester will not exist as an independent state. Separated from Russia by Ukrainian borders, it can rather become an annex of one of these two states. The newspaper adds that Dniester leadership plays a secondary role in settling the Dniester's problem. It can be solved by Russian and Moldovan leadership, concludes the newspaper.

Lucinschi: Unification With Romania 'Sure Way to War'

AU2801161994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1749 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 27/1/1994—Dumitru Motpan, Moldovan Agrarian Democratic Party [PDAM] chairman, and Petru Lucinschi, speaker of Moldova's Parliament and a candidate on the PDAM list, stated today in a press conference that the Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova [FPCDM] is sending special groups to the meetings of PDAM followers to hinder the meetings. PDAM candidate Nicolae Andronic said that the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) members are directly influenced by FPCDM followers. Talking about the basic problems of the electorate, Lucinschi declared that the eventual unification of Moldova and Romania, by a Parliament's decision, would be the "sure way to war" and would mean the losing of the Dniester and the Gagauz regions, causing interethnic conflicts in urban centers, most of whose population is not local. Under such circumstances, the menace of separatism in the republic's north could appear. In addition, Moldova could lose the support of the international community. Lucinschi believes that the return to power of the current leaders, in case PDAM wins the elections, will be for the world community a

guarantee that Moldova will follow the course initiated in Chisinau. The parliament speaker added that Moldova has yet no document to confirm its independence. The declarations on sovereignty and independence, adopted in parliament, should be confirmed by a referendum to show the people's will, said Lucinschi. Commenting the idea of a referendum on the unification, organized in both Romanian states, Lucinschi considers that in this case "we will unite with Yugoslavia" and "the war will not be limited between Prut and Dniester." The parliament speaker and another PDAM leader, Dumitru Diacov, asserted that the absolute majority of the population, both in Moldova and Romania, are against the unification. Lucinschi said that during the electoral campaign he does not plan any visit to the left bank of the Dniester River or meetings with Tiraspol leaders.

Snegur Views Difficulties With Economic Issues

AU2901193194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1807 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/1/1994—The extended session of the Moldovan Prosecutor's Office College took place today, with the participation of President Mircea Snegur and Speaker Petru Lucinschi. The report of the Prosecutor's Office activity in 1993 was read at the session, states the Presidential Press Service. Snegur declared that Moldova enjoys the support of international organizations and has the chance to successfully perform political reforms. However, concerning the domestic affairs, "difficulties are considerable and continue to aggravate." The economic crisis, the population's bad material condition, the new bureaucracy that blocks the reforms, "on the background of obvious cases of corruption of administrative apparatus and its junctions, sometimes, with Mafia structures, endangers the republic's independence and sovereignty themselves," said the president. Snegur asserted that law infringements are committed in privatization. "A massive control last year proved that from 600 enterprises, illicit privatization of fixed funds was detected in 200." Speaking about economic violations that brought big prejudices to the republic, Mircea Snegur mentioned the policy of unfounded credits, illegal issue of licenses for export of material resources, law violations while constituting the initial capital of non-state economic structures, created partially on state property, improper use of buildings, illicit distribution of lodging. Snegur mentioned among measures to improve the situation the discussion by the future Parliament of legislative acts, the display of the activity of justice bodies, including the Prosecutor's Office, the enhancement of methods of analyzing and quickly informing the Parliament and republic's leadership, states the communique.

Snegur, IBRD Mission Members Discuss Reform

AU2901211594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1728 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/1/1994—Mircea Snegur had today a meeting with the mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] led by Josue Tanaka, states a communique of the Presidential Press Service. Tanaka estimated that IBRD is very attentive to the changes in Moldova in promoting the reform, being deeply interested in their success. Mission members have highly appreciated the competence of banking factors, who guide the monetary mass, not admitting the reduction of Moldovan leu's course. They asserted that Moldova, having finest wine reserves, could stand the stabilization period by selling it if the menace of devaluation appears. Mircea Snegur said he is aware of the grave problem of social protection of vulnerable layers, for whose solution special efforts are being made. The President declared his dissatisfaction with the rhythm of privatization, adding that he will sign a series of decrees to hasten the process.

Presidential Aide Does Not Rule Out Russian-Style Elections

LD2801203394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] The results of Russia's December election can somewhat be repeated in Moldova's general elections, Presidential Adviser Anatol Cebanu told Interfax. He spoke of similar mentality on the ground and disarray within the democratic camp.

Cebanu does not rule out that the Agrarian-Democratic Party may win at least 30 percent of the vote. However, the Alliance of Socialists and Unity Movement has the chance of doing the same, he believes.

The Women's Association may perform well if the vote follows a Russian scenario, Cebanu said adding that the Peasants and Intelligentsia bloc and the Alliance of Christian Democratic People's Front which may win 10 percent of the vote each are likely to forge a single parliamentary group.

Cebanu is sceptical about the chances by the Socialist Democratic, Democratic and Reform Parties to overcome the 4 percent barrier needed to form a faction.

It is most important that people caring for internal peace and stability came to power, Cebanu stressed. But we will be in for the worst time if ant-independence forces win the election, he said.

Parliament Ratifies Payments Accord With Ukraine

AU2801184894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1749 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 27/1/1994—During yesterday's session, Moldovan Parliamentary Presidium ratified the Moldovan-Ukrainian intergovernmental agreement on negotiating the state credit granted to Ukraine by Moldova in 1992. The Parliamentary Press Service informed BASA that the debts between the two

states for 1993 were not calculated yet and the credit examined by the Presidium supposes the attestation of a sum of $28,400,000 dollars indebted by Ukraine to Moldova for Moldovan foodstuffs and industrial products. The credit will be reimbursed chiefly by supplying energy agents from Ukraine. The Presidium also examined the questions concerning the granting of privileges of not paying excises to "Malovata" farm, Dubasari; payment by Moldova of the fee as a member of European Radio and TV Union; approval of expenditures of National Bank and the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA for 1994. Also, the Presidium discussed the participation of Parliament's leadership in elections. It was decided that Presidium members will participate in elections without being dismissed, but they will not use the state technical means.

Kazakhstan

Ambassador in Iran Says Nuclear Weapons Will Be Kept

LD2801111594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058 GMT 28 Jan 94

["Urgent" item—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin; Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1618 GMT on 28 January transmits a service message killing this item, and Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1724 GMT on 28 January transmits a service message revoking the kill of the item]

[Text] Tehran January 28 TASS—"Kazakhstan bears responsibility for its nuclear weapons itself. It does not intend to eliminate them or transfer them to other places until the non-use of such weapons is guaranteed at the world level and the planet gets rid of them", Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Iran Myrzadai Zholdasbekov said in an interview with the Iranian "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" newspaper.

The ambassador added that he was expressing the official position of Kazakhstan about which U.S. President Bill Clinton will be informed during President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to the United States.

The Kazakh Embassy in Tehran opened on January 25.

Leadership 'Representative' Denies Iranian Newspaper Report

LD2801141794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 28 January—In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, a highly-placed representative of the leadership of Kazakhstan today categorically rejected a report that appeared in the Iranian newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI about a special position that Kazakhstan was supposed to have adopted over the nuclear weapons in its possession.

The report, he stressed, had nothing in common with Kazakhstan's position, which was confirmed during the December visit to Almaty by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and by the forthcoming signing of an agreement with Russia on the strategic nuclear forces temporarily stationed on the territory of Kazakhstan.

In response to a request from an ITAR-TASS correspondent to comment on the Iranian newspaper report, a high-ranking Russian diplomat said that, if it were true, it required "careful and urgent verification, primarily by Kazakhstan."

Envoy to Iran Denies Granting Interview

LD3001191994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Myrzadai Zholdasbekov, Kazakh ambassador to Iran, announced today that he did not give an Iranian newspaper an interview from which it was inferred that Almaty had allegedly changed its position regarding the republic's nuclear weapons.

Earlier this week, quoting the ambassador, the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reported that Kazakhstan was not planning to destroy the nuclear weapons located on its territory or hand them over to anyone.

Kyrgyzstan

'Massive' Turnout for 'Vote of Confidence' Reported

NC3001153694 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By Nadira Artykova]

[Text] Bishkek, Jan 30 (AFP)—Voters in Kyrgyzstan responded massively Sunday [30 January] to a "vote of confidence" referendum to endorse the shock therapy mandate of reformist President Askar Akayev.

Around 88 per cent of voters in the small central Asian state had cast their ballot with four hours of polling remaining, a member of the central election commission told AFP.

Polling stations closed at 8.00 p.m. (1400 GMT) with preliminary results Sunday night.

Pre-vote opinion polls showed Akayev would win his gamble with between 60 percent and 70 percent backing for his reform programme.

The only head of state among the five former Soviet republics in central Asia not to have been a communist leader, Akayev announced the vote amid a social and economic crisis for his radical reform programme launched in July 1992.

The reforms, instigated in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund by a man with a reputation as a good democrat, have undermined Akayev's popularity.

Average monthly salaries now stand at 135 soms (around 15 dollars), just 35 soms above the estimated absolute minimum necessary for survival.

When the reforms were launched, Akayev predicted that the economy would stabilise by the end of 1992. But by the end of last year annual inflation was still running at around 1,600 percent, while national income had fallen by 17 percent during the year.

Observers said that Akayev's decision to call the referendum had also been influenced by criticism that his initial election, in October 1991 with 95 percent of the vote, lacked legitimacy.

Victory would mean the continuation of his bid to drag the country's 4.5 million inhabitants out of poverty.

It would also strengthen Akayev's hand in his three-way battle for political supremacy with the communist-dominated parliament and with opposition forces within the legislature calling for fresh elections.

Topchubek Tursunaliyev, who heads the opposition Free Kyrgyzstan party, accused Akayev of calling the plebiscite to "avoid the elections of which he is afraid."

"The president and parliament were elected under the Soviet constitution of 1977 and have no legitimacy since Kyrgyzstan adopted its own constitution last May," Tursunaliyev added.

Opposition forces including the Free Kyrgyzstan party also denounced "corruption and the mafia, which are rife here and are in the process of turning Kyrgyzstan into the Sicily of central Asia."

Akayev himself admitted last week that the country was wracked by widespread corruption, which he said had completely overrun the Interior Ministry.

A Western diplomat here added: "Akayev is a genuine democrat but he is not in complete control over what is happening in this country."

Akayev Wins 'Landslide' Victory

LD3101104794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek January 31 TASS—A referendum of confidence in Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, held on January 30, ended in a landslide victory for his policy. An many as 96.2 per cent of citizens who participated in the poll supported the Kyrgyz leader.

A total of 95.9 per cent of Kyrgyz residents having voting rights participated in the referendum. These preliminary results were made public by Presidential Press Secretary Imankadyr Rysaliyev at a briefing on Monday [31 January].

"The turnout at the referendum and Akayev's success showed that the Kyrgyz people have rallied behind the acknowledged leader—Askar Akayev," the press secretary stressed. "People supported the policy of reforms and the policy of ethnic peace and quietude at our homeland."

"The success at the referendum necessitates sharp radicalisation of reforms, and they will follow," Rysaliyev continued. "It is necessary to consolidate all the arms of government, to establish law and order, to improve labour discipline as well as to step up struggle against corruption."

Replying to journalists, the press secretary spurned down accusations of forging voting results at the referendum.

He stressed that the poll was monitored by representatives from all the Kyrgyz political parties and movements, foreign diplomats accredited to Bishkek and journalists from foreign countries.

"Not a single representative said anything about some pressure or violations of generally recognised rules of referendum," the press secretary stressed.

Assembly Chairman Interviewed on National Referendum

LD3101110194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Yesterday the people of Kyrgyzstan participated in the nationwide referendum. Those who voted for President Akayev voted for the new economic reform, for the future calm in the republic, and for our prosperity. Medetbay Sherimkulov, chairman of the Supreme Council, voted to express confidence in Askar Akayev. Following is an interview Mr. Sherimkulov gave to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Sherimkulov, this January is a very memorable time for our state. What would you like to say about the referendum?

[Sherimkulov] This is the first referendum since Kyrgyzstan became an independent state. It is important because if the nation expresses confidece in Askar Akayev his term of office will last until 1996. It is not only showing confidence in Akayev, but also giving the leadership an opportunity for another two years to continue to implement the reform. If the reform is implemented, we can move forward. It means we will not reverse course or deviate from it. Frankly, we have spent many years aspiring to build socialism and communism, and in the final analysis what we have now is neither socialism nor capitalism. But our aim is to bring good to the country. This is a very important period for reforms. Frankly, we have many problems in the economy. We have to bring our laws in line with the process of reform. I want to repeat: Those who vote for Akayev will give him additional time to implement these reforms. Well, I know it is forbidden to campaign on referendum day [laughs] but this is just my personal opinion. Frankly, our new life and all aspirations are connected with the name of Askar Akayev. Thank you. [end recording]

Akayev: Russian Aid Needed for Economic Independence

LD2801202394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev believes that his country can truly become economically independent only with assistance from Russia. Speaking at a press conference in Bishkek on Thursday [27 January], the president emphasized that the arrival of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin planned for February "would assist with settlement of the issues concerning support of Kyrgyz industrial enterprises which directly depend on economic relations with Russia." "If we break these relations, there is a risk for the Kyrgyz to go back to their traditional nomadic life of cattle breeders," the president pointed out.

For the time being, it is impossible to resolve the current economic issues, like supplies of equipment and fuel material and lubricants, without the assistance provided by Russia. This also threatens the future of agriculture.

In connection with this, the president emphasized that dual citizenship would conform with the interests in preserving the economic potential of Kyrgyzstan, since this would help to maintain the working potential of plants where most workers were Russians. He refuted the assertion that this might lead to destabilization of inter-ethnic relations.

Commenting on the changes in the Russian government, the Kyrgyz president said that the situation should not be exaggerated. "The reforms in Russia will continue since now they are irreversible," Akayev pointed out. In his opinion, Chernomyrdin was the man who could carry out the policy of economic reforms in Russia.

Akayev said that if he won the January 30 referendum on confidence in him he would take resolute steps to make the reforms more rapid. "Kyrgyzstan can't afford to waste any time, because it has huge debts which could go on snowballing," he said.

He said the referendum, called on his own initiative, had three goals to pursue: first, to confirm the authority of the head of state, who, under the new constitution, must be guarantee of stability and of a balance between the three branches of government; second, to confirm the policy of reform; and, third, to stabilize the political situation in the republic.

The president said he would never dissolve parliament, for it had been elected by the people, although under the former regime. "Only the people themselves can determine the future of parliament," he said.

Akayev said that, during his trips within Kyrgyzstan, he had come to the conclusion that the population supported the reform policy but was dissatisfied with the form privatization was taking. For this reason, he was going to take measures to set up bodies for combatting corruption and strengthening the republic's economic security, he said.

The same day, Akayev addressed the nation on television and radio. He said the main objective of his policy was to reach ethnic conciliation in the republic and that he would "step up his efforts to establish civil peace in Kyrgyzstan."

He said that, as head of state, he had been doing his best to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis and the social and political shocks experienced by the republic. "My conscience is clear," he said.

He said economic problems that had been taking shape for decades could not be solved within a few months. Today "all citizens of the country, all political parties and movements, both left-wing and right-wing ones, both communists and centrists, stand for market economics, for freedom for the powerful and support for the weak," Akayev said. He said the disagreements were over how rapid the reforms should be and over their social aspect. There was a need for compromise, he said.

Akayev said the mechanism to control the economic situation was being put into operation "slowly but surely." He said that, by introducing its own currency, Kyrgyzstan had evaded many economic upheavals. The country had also managed to restore its economic ties with other former Soviet republics, in particular Russia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the first step towards which was the lifting of customs barriers, the president said.

"We are in the process of forming a single economic area with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan," he said.

Akayev said that, if he won the referendum, he would take immediate measures to strengthen discipline, give an impulse to the agrarian reform, solve energy and transport problems, support medium-sized and small businesses, create an atmosphere of social partnership between the government, business and trade unions, and improve the position of the pensioners.

Akayev on Socioeconomic Reforms, Foreign Policy

LD2801211794 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1700 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Interview with President Askar Akayev by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Akayev, in Russian] We do not want to create a commonplace mentality in our people. Of course, it should combine the best features that every nation has. We will be able to get out of the current crisis provided we observe this condition. Our national policy naturally envisages protection of rights of all the peoples [words indistinct] of Kyrgyzstan. I believe that this is the guarantee for our future, peace, calm, and accord.

[Correspondent] We are implementing the policy of market reforms in our country and life has become exceptionally difficult for our people. There are lots of cases when people haven't been paid their salaries, students their scholarships, children's allowances haven't be granted in time as well as pensions. People complain about that. It worries them. What can you say about that?

[Akayev] We are implementing market reforms in our country and unfortunately they are not proceeding as they should. Indeed, life is becoming more difficult. We should carry out a socially oriented policy and support our less well off sections of society.If pensions, wages and scholarships have been paid in time this would have partly solved their problems. Therefore, we have set up a state commission under the president of our republic with the aim of supervising the issue of timely payment of them. It should exercise control over a timely payment of salaries, stipends and pensions and it will work for as long as needed. [sentence indistinct]

[Correspondent] Can you tell us few words about our foreign policy?

[Akayev] We have been recognized and established contacts with many democratic countries of the world [words indistinct]. If we speak about our priorities, our first priority is to have historically friendly relations with such countries as Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. This is our main priority. Apart from this, with the introduction of economic reforms and democratic transformations, we have established good relations with the United States, Japan, Germany, Turkey, Switzerland, and other countries. We also have good relations with the Muslim countries and China—we have signed agreements with them on friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding. Kyrgyzstan, as an equal among equals, has its own embassies and consulates in various countries. [passage indistinct]

[Correspondent, in Russian] I wanted to ask you a question about socio-economic (?reforms). We have received a letter with this question. It has been sent to us by Sholpon Adilbekova, a student of the foreign language college of Kyrgyzstan. Here is the question: Askar Akayevich! I have familiarized myself with your concept for socio-economic strategy and I fully support it. But are you sure that the government will be able to implement this program. What is you view [words indistinct]?

[Akayev, in Russian] First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Sholpon. I am pleased that even students are following with great interest ways of Kyrgyzstan's development. They will have to build a democratic and legal state one day and the foundation for it is being built by us. It has been enshrined by the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan. Young people will have to build a free market economy which will focus its attention on man and his interests. Therefore, we have set a goal of not only building a market economy but of building a socially oriented market economy which will protect interests of our young people. The one which will provide them with jobs and opportunities to reveal their talents and their potential.

With regard to implementation of this program I am sure that, we with a new government, will be able to implement the program of reforms. The new government has been supported by the parliament. I have met people in practically all the regions of the republic and people on the whole support the new government. With regard to the president—he, according to the new constitution, has the right to exercise control over the government's work. The president has the right to chair the government's sessions during its examination of the most important issues of socio-economic development and to take the decisions. I want our young people to know that we are not going to turn back from our path of reforms. And we will achieve success in their implementation. [passage indistinct]

Akayev on Industrial Development, Dual Citizenship

LD2901164494 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0000 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev held a meeting with the most active representatives of the capital's public. Representatives of different parties, movements, public organizations, district (?hakimats), various nationalities, and intelligentsia gathered together in the State History Museum building.

Bishkek Mayor Ibraimov addressed those present. He drew their attention to the fact of the utmost importance of the meeting between the head of state and citizens of Bishkek. He said that major intellectual, scientific, and industrial forces are represented in the capital. Bishkek is a sort of a barometer of Kyrgyzstan's conscience.

President Askar Akayev emphasized the importance of the meeting. He presented a speech, saying that all the regions of the country were attempting to equal Bishkek. It should set a good example of stable peace and prosperity. Therefore, topical problems have to be solved first in the capital. One of them is the restoration and revival of industry. Kyrgyzstan should develop further as an industrial state and Russia should become its main partner. This choice was made by Kyrgyz ancestors who understood the importance of the union. We should hand on the friendship baton to future generations.

The president reminded those present of the unselfish assistance that was rendered to Kyrgyzstan by Russia at times of emergencies. He also said that the spring sowing campaign is approaching and we do not have any machinery or spare parts. We are short of fuel and mineral resources. Around 1 billion soms will be needed for the sowing campaign. Where can we get this money?

We pin great hopes on the upcoming visit to Kyrgyzstan by Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. It is expected that a number of documents on economic cooperation

will be signed. Our main goal is to preserve the intellectual potential which is the important asset of the country, said the head of state. We should cleverly use our experts. They represent our nation, it is a locomotive which is ascribed to play a major role in lifting the country's economy out of crisis and help in building an industrial state. Of course they need to be socially protected. Commissions have been set up in the government so as to supervise the timely payment of wages [to them] since these categories of workers mainly rely on their wages.

The president also spoke about dual citizenship. The president believes that the migration of Russians could only be stopped provided we show our good attitude—by introducing dual citizenship.

Akayev urged people to get rid of the psychology of national self-conceit and to get rid of it, not only in politics, but also in everyday life. Let us be united and set a good example to other regions. Each ethnic group should feel safe and secure in Bishkek. By doing this we will maintain our independence, strengthen it, defend sovereignty, and build a healthy market economy. Only peace and stability can contribute to facilitating economic reforms. [passage omitted]

Nazarbayev Leaves for Davos, Wishes Akayev Success

LD2801122194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Before leaving for Switzerland yesterday, where an international economic forum will take place, President Nazarbayev telephoned President Askar Akayev. Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed support for the policy pursued by Askar Akayev and wished him every success in the upcoming referendum.

Answering the questions of Kazakh and foreign journalists on the referendum in Kyrgyzstan, Nazarbayev noted that the democratic reform which is being implemented in Kyrgyzstan has gained recognition among not only Asian states, but also of the whole world. In conclusion, he said that he had supported and supports Akayev's policy, and he is sure that the nation of Kyrgyzstan will support Akayev at the referendum.

Resolution Issued To Encourage Agricultural Producers

LD3101120794 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Kyrgyz Government issued the following resolution "On the stimulation of production and the sale of agricultural produce in 1994".

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic notes that despite a number of measures which have been taken, a decline in the production and sales of produce in the agrarian sector is continuing. Correspondingly, the level of consumption of food products by the population is also decreasing. The processing industry produces less as well. Industrial enterprises are not sufficiently provided with raw material.

According to preliminary data, in 1993 the gross output of production in all categories of farms decreased compared with 1992 by 8 percent in comparable prices. Last year the sowing area for cereals was enlarged by 64,000 hectares compared with 1992. Nevertheless, gross harvest figures, including corn, did not exceed the 1992 level and equaled 1,693,000 [metric] tonnes. The yield of cereals per hectare was 1.1 quintals less than planned. As a result of reducing the sowing area under corn for seed by 18,000 hectares, or 28 percent, and the decrease of its yield by 6.2 quintals a hactare, the output of corn decreased by 93,000 tonnes, or by 43 percent. Similarly poor results were obtained in 1993 in potato, vegetables, berry and fruit, and grape growing. About 290,000 tonnes of potatoes were produced, which is 20 percent less. Only 249,000 tonnes of vegetables were harvested, which is 1.4 times less than in 1992.

Due to the decrease in yield and the slow rates of harvesting of some crops, certain loss of produce took place: 62,000 tonnes of cereals were not received nor 10,500 tonnes of beetroot; 1,200 tonnes of sunflower; 41,000 tonnes of vegetables and 22,000 tonnes of potatoes. As before, the situation in agriculture is complicated. The number of cattle in all categories of farms decreased by 8 percent compared with 1992, of sheep and goats by 12 percent; of hogs by 32 percent; of horses by 3 percent. The production of meat in live weight decreased by 2 percent, of milk by 2 percent; of wool by 9 percent.

As a result of the decrease in the production of agricultural produce and disadvantages of the finance and crediting policy in the rural area, procuring organizations have decreased their volumes of procurement and failed to deliver the right amount for the needs of the state. In order to stimulate the production and sale of agricultural produce, the Kyrgyz Government resolves:

First, to set a minimum volume of the procurement of agricultural produce by procurement organizations and processing industries for the needs of the state and the level of guaranteed procurement prices for these products, without value added tax, in line with appendix M1;

Second, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Products of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Kyrgyzchleboprodukt republican production amalgamation, the Kyrgyztamakash state concern should, in two months, conclude agreements with producers in all forms of ownership for the procurement of agricultural produce. Oblast and rayon state administrations should urgently define the optimum structure of sowing areas and numbers of cattle for 1994 and provide assistance to procurement organizations and processing industries in concluding agreements for the procurement of produce;

Third, to recommend that the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan and joint stock and commercial banks should, in

one month, provide credit resources to procurement organizations and processing enterprises in order for them to be able to advance money to producers of agricultural goods in the amount of 25 percent of the minimum volume of procurement.

Fourth, the Kyrgyzstan State Committee for Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Kyrgyzchleboprodukt republican production amalgamation and the Kyrgyztamakash state concern should introduce changes to levels of guaranteed procurement prices for agricultural products taking into account higher production costs proceeding from objective conditions of supply and demand;

Fifth, to state that the agricultural produce excluded from the minimum volume of procurement will be sold by the producers by direct agreements for agreed prices, exports included, without licenses and exempt from customs duties.

[Signed] Prime Minister Dzhumagulov

Tajikistan

Council Session Considers Damage Claims

LD2801134594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0100 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] A regular session of the presidium of the government of the Republic was held yesterday under the chairmanship of Abdujalil Samadov, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The draft laws of the Republic of Tajikistan on refugees, on forced migrants and those people who have suffered damages as a result of the armed clashes were discussed and approved at the meeting. The above mentioned draft laws will be submitted to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic.

Similarly, the issues related to provision of the population and the medical establishments of the Republic with medicines, development of pharmaceutical industry for the period of 1994-1996, reducing business trips expenditures and others were discussed at the meeting.

The specific decisions were adopted on these issues.

Consensus on Converting Russian Ruble Deposits

LD2801151194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1441 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By KHOVAR correspondent Negmat Ochilov]

[Text] Dushanbe January 28 TASS—A resolution of the Tajik government commission for exchange of 1961-1992 Russian roubles was circulated here today.

Under the document, deposits of permanent Tajik residents placed at the Tajik savings bank and joint stock-commercial banks shall not be re-estimated if they did not exceed one million roubles at November 1, 1993. State securities sold to the population in 1993 shall not be re-estimated as well.

All deposits larger than 200,000 roubles that are liable for re-estimation regardless the time of their making shall be returned in due time on condition of a declaration on income and a certificate on tax payment to be issued by the local taxation bodies.

One-, three-, five- and ten-rouble banknotes of the 1961 model shall no longer be in use in the republic with the exception of payment for city transportation and bread at specialized shops.

General: Militants Braced for Spring Offensive

LD2901095694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0948 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gordiyenko]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—"The Tajik armed opposition operating from northern Afghanistan is bracing for armed actions this spring," the commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Chechulin, said in a telephone interview with ITAR-TASS on Saturday.

"Tajik opposition leaders supported by Afghan mujahideen do not abandon attempts to smuggle gunmen, arms and narcotics across the border," the commander said. Russian border guards thwart their actions virtually every day."

"The past day was no exception," Chechulin continued. Troops at the Pyandzh border section frustrated, on Saturday, an attempt to smuggle weapons and drugs across the border. Gunmen and narcotics were seized as a result of efficient actions by Russian border guards.

The commander noted that militants use caches more often now to smuggle arms. For instance, troops at the Moscovskiy border section spotted a cache with great quantities of mines and ammunition for firearms.

Turkmenistan

President Sponsors Nationwide Movement

MK2101130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Jan 94 p 5

[LReport by Aleksandr Sokolov: "A National Revival Movement Has Been Created. It Will Assist Implementation of the '10 Years of Prosperity' Program"]

[Text] A few days ago the founding congress of the Galkynysh National Revival Movement took place in Ashgabat. The movement includes all public and political organizations in the republic as well as religious groups. The congress formed the movement's council, headed by President Saparmurat Niyazov.

Addressing the congress, Mr. Niyazov stated that "the movement as a public and political organization will thoroughly assist the spiritual and cultural revitalization of the Turkmen people and raise the citizens' well-being." The movement is also to contribute to the implementation of the main government program, "10 Years of Prosperity." According to the president, the immediate economic tasks include mass privatization of public utility and retail trade organizations. S. Niyazov promised that in the first half of this year all money losing and small enterprises will be privatized.

Role of Russian Troops on Border Analyzed

PM2601104394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 94 First Edition p 6

[Vladimir Berezovskiy report under "Near Neighbors" rubric: "Forces Have United on the Border"]

[Text] Ashgabat—Boris Yeltsin and Saparmurad Niyazov signed an intergovernmental agreement in Ashgabat last December on joint guarding of Turkmenistan's border and on the Russian servicemen's status. What gave rise to this document, and what has it changed in the life of our soldiers? Vladislav Shunevich, chief of staff and first deputy commander of Turkmenistan's border troops, speaks:

"Turkmenia's state border has always been complex. It is 2,472.1 km long. It extends over mountains and desert sands, along rivers, and across the Caspian. In the old union it was 'covered' by the Central Asia Border District. As of 11 August 1992 the guarding of the border passed entirely into the hands of Turkmenistan. I will not say that these changes caused a disaster. But the 'green caps' encountered serious problems. Owing to the rupture of ties with Russia, it became difficult to maintain in 'combat readiness' the various obstacles in the path of possible violators.

"In previous years it was mainly Slav officers and soldiers who were sent to the USSR's southern border. It was thought that they stood up better to the heat here and, moreover, any contact with Iranians and Afghans was ruled out on ethnic grounds. After Ukraine and Belarus demanded the return of their servicemen before 31 [date as published] November, and the Russian Supreme Soviet of its troops before 31 December 1993, a mass exodus began. Incidentally, the last six compulsory-service Russian soldiers left the border literally one month ago. Here I will emphasize that there was not a single case of desertion! As a rule, officers were transferred back home only after they had trained a replacement. Nevertheless, we have run into an acute shortage of professionals.

"A partial solution has been found. A school for junior officers 'forges' lieutenants and ensigns in the space of three months. Students drafted from higher educational institutions have closed up the breaches among specialists in communications and in motor vehicle and aviation hardware. University graduates have become deputy commanders for work with personnel, henceforth made up entirely of residents of Turkmenia.

"Today one-half of the officers are already Turkmens. But we risked losing the Russian servicemen who had stayed—the backbone of the commander corps. The first talks began under Russian Security Minister Barannikov. They soon reached impasse. The deadlock was overcome when Andrey Nikolayev came to head the Russian Federation's border troops. Much was resolved by his talks with President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan—knots of problems were 'unraveled.'

"A joint command has been set up, headed by the commander of Turkmenistan's border troops. He has two deputies. I, the chief of staff, am one, and the other is the chief of the Russian Border Troops Operations Group, to whom all the Russian servicemen are subordinate. The Russian Federation has taken on their funding, while Turkmenistan will pay for the supply of hardware, ammunition, and arms. The most important thing is that the Russian officer can continue to serve calmly. He retains all rights and privileges indefinitely. You know, some officers who had tendered requests for a transfer have now withdrawn them.

"What is service like for the Russian officer in Turkmenia? There are no problems with housing or children's schooling. All school graduates whose fathers are serving in the Border Troops Directorate entered institutes or universities last year. Wages are paid at the officer's request either in manats or in rubles. There is no question of discrimination along ethnic lines. All the border detachment chiefs of staff are Russian officers. Yes, language problems do arise. But the Turkmens speak Russian, and all orders are given in it. Office work is also done in Russian.

"The signed agreement is also advantageous to Russia. Afghanistan remains a zone of heightened tension. The Turkmen leadership maintains close, good relations with the leaders of the northwestern provinces—Turan Ismail Khan and Rashid Dostam—but this does not remove all problems. Mass poverty is pushing Afghans into robbery and theft and the seizure of pastures and lands. The drugs business has assumed dangerous proportions in Afghanistan and is literally breaching the border. It is possible to speak purely hypothetically about a border service on the Afghan side, but many servicemen there, moreover, are light-fingered and live by smuggling.

"The Iranian border is a little quieter. A pass regime has been introduced there. But all kinds of things happen. A subunit under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Lopushko recently tracked down some smugglers who were using three horses to carry a 150 kg consignment of drugs from Afghanistan across Turkmenia into Iran. The servicemen pursued them across snow-covered mountains for more than 30 km, caught up with them, and disarmed them after a fight.

"If Russia quits the Turkmen border, a muddy wave of crime and terrorism and a wave of drugs will swamp the

Commonwealth countries. There have been proposals to move the border further north, but that is unrealistic. It would cost a colossal amount of money to equip."

Uzbekistan

Deputy Premier Replaced in Another Reshuffle

LD2801173194 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1126 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] There has been another reshuffle at the highest level of executive power in Uzbekistan. By decrees of President Karimov, Tulkin Miryakubov has been released from his post of deputy prime minister, and Shuhrat Gafurov from his as chairman of the State Property Committee. At the same time, Viktor Chzhen has been appointed deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Property Committee. He worked for a long time as head of local industry in the republic.

Shamil Gataulin has become chairman of the recently set up Taxation Committee, which also took in the customs service and a considerable part of the service, dissolved in the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], of combatting economic crime. Up until now he has been working as chief of the main taxation directorate under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan. This is already the second major reshuffle in the government over the past week, and, according to authoritative sources, will not be the last in the near future. Clearly such measures were conditioned by the resolve of the president to activate the process of market reforms in the republic, and to bring more energetic people into the government. He has spoken several times of the need for such actions in his speeches at the session of the council of international [words indistinct]

Ethnic Korean Becomes Vice Premier

PM2801140194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[Report by Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov: "Korean Becomes Uzbekistan Vice Premier"]

[Text] Tashkent—The 49-year-old Candidate of Technical Sciences Viktor Chzhen, chairman of the Uzbek Committee for the Management of State Property and Privatization and an ethnic Korean, has been appointed Uzbekistan deputy prime minister under an edict from President Islam Karimov.

He becomes the third so-called Russian-speaker in the top echelons of state power in the republic. One of Uzbekistan's vice premiers is the Ukrainian Anatoliy Voznenko, while the deputy chairman of the Supreme Council is the Russian Boris Bugrov.

Armenia

Karabakh Reports Resumption of Fighting

NC2801134794 Yerevan SNARK in English 0920 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Stepanakert, January 28 (SNARK)—During the last three days the Azerbaijani troops lost about 20 military machines, among them - 16 tanks. Despite the considerable losses the Azerbaijani Army suffers in man power and military hardware, Azeris are going on with the attacks.

This morning the battles at the northern Mardakertskiy and Kelbadzharskiy regions again started. According to the data received from the Press-Service of the Karabak? Defense Army, the Azerbaijani side is concentrating forces at the other parts of the front.

Meanwhile, yesterday the Karabakh forces repelled the enemy's attacks. In the battles at the Martuni direction Azeris lost 2 tanks and 70 soldiers. The Karabakh side lost 7 soldiers, 18 soldiers were wounded.

Azeri Losses Reported

NC2801154094 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service has reported that a relative calm is prevailing in the border regions of the Republic. However, the situation continues to remain extremely tense in the Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict zone.

Although the Azerbaijani Army is suffering huge losses in men and material, it is pressing ahead with its desperate attempts to break through the Karabakh forces' defensive lines in various sectors. In the last three days alone the Karabakh forces either destroyed or captured 19 armored cars, including 16 tanks.

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army headquarters reported that the Azerbaijani attacks in various directions along the combat line, extending from northwest to the southern borders, were completely checked during battles yesterday. The enemy launched its fiercest attacks against Martuni. The Azerbaijanis retreated to their initial positions after losing two tanks and nearly 70 soldiers. The Azerbaijanis also lost a few dozen more troops in the other sectors of the war front. Seven were killed and 18 injured on the Karabakh side.

The combat operations resumed on the morning of 28 January in the north of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon and nearby Mardak?rtskiy Rayon. According to reconnaissance data, the Azerbai?anis are bringing in fresh forces to the other sectors of the war front.

'Calm' Reported 29 Jan

NC2901190594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1212 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Stepanakert, January 29 (SNARK)—The press-service of the Karabakh Defence Army headquarters has told today SNARK an unexpected calm set in at the Karabakh front from yesterday evening. The observers say the relative calm is connected with the visit of Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian President's Special Ambassador, to the region of the Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict.

Meanwhile, the headquarters of the Defence Army reports the Karabakh forces managed to reject all the enemy's attacks in different parts of the front. Moreover, they threw back the Azerbaijanis from a number of strategically important hills and took favorable positions in the north of Kelbadzharskiy and Mardakertskiy region. The both sides had losses. Yesterday evening the Azerbaijani aircraft bombarded the Karabakh territory. The consequences are cleared out.

Ministry Denies Deliveries of Russian Weapons

LD2801144194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1247 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 28 Jan—Bloody fighting is continuing in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Nagorno-Karabakh defense army reports today. The Azerbajiani forces are on the offensive in the direction of the Kelbadzharskiy and Mardakertskiy rayons, in the process of which "the Azerbaijanis are incurring serious losses. Yesterday they lost over 70 killed and 19 armored vehicles captured in this sector of the front alone."

In connection with a report in Azerbaijan's mass media claiming a "steep increase in the supplies of weapons to Armenia by Russia," the head of the Armenian Defense Ministry's press service told the ARMENPRESS-TASS correspondent that "military cooperation between Russia and Armenia is being strictly adhered to within the framework of the status of the Russian forces in Armenia. No deliveries of weapons not regulated by this agreement have been made or are being made."

Kazimirov Holds Airport Talks, Departs

NC2801154294 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1433 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Yerevan, 28 Jan (ARMENPRES)—Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's ambassador on special missions, arrived in Yerevan today.

Vladimir Kazimirov left for Stepanakert soon after talks were held at the airport.

Leaves Stepanakert

NC2901184294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1212 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Stepanakert, January 29 (SNARK)—Today morning Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian President's Special Ambassador, completed his negotiations with the leadership of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. The negotiations lasted two days. The Karabakh Department of Press and Information (DPI) told SNARK the sides continued discussing the Russian peaceful initiative on the Karabakh conflict settlement.

Meanwhile, during the Kazimirov's staying in Stepanakert the Azerbaijani aircraft three times invaded the Karabakh airspace. About half past three the Azerbaijani jets bombarded the suburbs of Stepanakert.

"I consider wrong and unacceptable these actions of the Azerbaijani aircraft", Kazimirov commented on the last air-raid. DPI himself estimated these actions of Azerbaijan as an obvious provocation aiming to fail the intermediary efforts of Russia.

Today morning Kazimirov has left Stepanakert.

Stepanakert, January 29 (SNARK)—Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian President's Special Ambassador, has arrived today morning in Yerevan from Stepanakert.

The Karabakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs told SNARK on January 28 in the evening the Ambassador discussed with the Karabakh leaders the problem of truce conclusion.

Earlier the Karabakh authorities more than once declared that they are in favour of any neutral intermediary initiatives on peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

After the negotiations in Yerevan Vladimir Kazimirov is departing to Baku.

Moscow's Plan To Solve Conflict Involves Troops

LD2801210494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Russia's plan on the settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict envisages the involvement of Russian troops as a separating force, the foreign minister of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Arkadiy Gukasyan said at a press conference in Stepanakert on Friday.

He said that in other aspects Russia's plans did not differ from the plan proposed by the CSCE Minsk group.

Gukasyan said that during his recent meeting in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev they failed to reach full agreement because the Karabakh side made a number of important remarks.

However, according to the Karabakh minister, after the discussion of these remarks with the Russian ambassador at Large Vladimir Kazimirov, eventually they were taken into account.

Gukasyan expressed hope that the discussion of Russia's plan with Kazimirov, who left for Yerevan on Friday and then will go to Stepanakert, would also be held in a constructive atmosphere.

In the meantime, the press secretary of the Armenian president Aram Abramian said in an interview with Interfax that Armenia welcomes Russia's peaceful initiative.

Karabakh Minister on Russian Peace Efforts

LD2901121694 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in English 2240 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Mr. Arkadiy Gukasyan had a press conference in Stepanakert. With regard (?of) the following he stressed: The last proposal of the Russian Federation does not contradict with the program of the European Council regarding the regulation of the Karabakh conflict. This is an attempt to find means that can really function.

This press conference was devoted to the results of the visit of the minister to France, Yugoslavia, and Russia. As to the position of Iran, the minister said that they are greatly worried by the fact that military actions take place (?there in their territory as well. The government has long activated its role in the solving of the problem.)

It is possible that ambassador of special assignment of the Russian Federation Kazimirov will visit Karabakh. During his press conference Minister of Foreign Affairs of Karabakh, Arkadiy Gukasyan, said that Kazimirov should visit Baku and Yerevan, as well (?intending) to discuss other ways out of the Karabakh problem. According to the last proposal of Russia, it is expected that Russian detachments will be stationed in the occupied region. The Azeri side confirmed [word indistinct] this idea which has been already discussed in Moscow with the participation of all the sides. In all probability the visit of Kazimirov is connected with the working out of the last variant of the proposal.

President Agrees to Russian Cease-Fire Proposals

LD2901184494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Armenia has officially given its agreement to Russia's proposals for a cease-fire and an end to hostilities on the Karabakh front until 1 February. A decision was reached on this at a meeting in Yerevan on Saturday evening between Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's special representative, and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. At the meeting the Russian diplomat presented a new plan for settling the Karabakh conflict. INTERFAX has learned that the essence of the

plan lies in Russia's sending its peacekeeping forces to the conflict zone. The reaction of the Armenian side to this proposal is still unknown.

Ter-Petrosyan Returns From St. Petersburg

NC2801192594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan returned to Yerevan today from St. Petersburg, where he participated in the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the blockade of Leningrad.

Azerbaijan

Armenian Attack in Terter Sector Fails

LD2801173894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1639 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevinj Adbullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 28 Jan—The Armenian command has been compelled to throw into battle the last reserves, located in Stepanakert, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry asserts. The latest ministry bulletin, issued this evening, reports failed attempts by the enemy to break through the Azerbaijani army's defense line in the Terter sector.

According to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, static fighting has been continuing in the Agdam sector; no substantial changes have been reported today on the other sections of the front.

Hostilities Continue

LD2901154994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry announced that hostilities in western Karabakh region had continued for the last two days. A number of Azerbaijani populated centers were subjected to artillery fire on Friday evening and Saturday morning. There have been civilian victims reported.

The Armenian units tried to undertake an attack on Terter direction towards the northeastern region from the Sargang storage pool on Friday night. The Azerbaijani units have offered a hard resistance. The loss suffered by the Armenian army was put at 18 people killed and 70 wounded. The Armenian troops also lost a tank and an armored vehicle.

The Armenian units also started an attack towards the railway station of Goradiz (the front's southern region) on Friday. However, they had to retreat to the primary positions after the Azerbaijani army had lost up to 50 people killed and wounded and an armored vehicle.

The situation in the zone of the Karabakh region remains difficult, military sources in Stepanakert reported. The Karabakh units resisted several simultaneous attacks of the Azerbaijani army. Moreover, during the successful counter-attacks the Karabakh units took strategically important positions in the northern regions of Kelbajar and Mardakert.

Ministry Reports Front Line Action

NC3001182594 Baku TURAN in English 1427 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 29 (TURAN)—Fighting along all front-lines continued yesterday, Azeri Defense Ministry reports.

Last morning, Armenian units launched an offensive along the sou?hern sector of the front towards the town of Goradiz, but having suffered losses retreated.

In the north, fighting in the vicinity of the city of Agdere (Mardakert), where the Armenian units try to beat Azeris out of their fortifications around the city, is also taking place.

Towards the Agdam direction (south-west) Armenian units attempted to advance towards the city of Beylagan, but were stopped by th? artillery shelling. Two Armenian tanks and one armoured personnel carrier were destroyed, and twenty soldiers were killed.

Ministry Says 200 Armenians Killed

NC2701182894 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The following is the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry report for the 27 January battle situation: The Armenian units, which are trying to aggravate the situation in the southwest of our Republic, launched a new attack yesterday against Goradiz, which is a communications hub. Our soldiers fought heroically and brought the Armenians' efforts to naught. Having failed to break through our Army's lines, the enemy withdrew after losing nearly 200 men.

Our Armed Forces' units are continuing to consolidate the new positions they occupied in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. The strategically important motor roads in this area are under the control of our Army.

Communique: Attacks Rebuffed

NC3001190694 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 30 Jan 94

["Text" of military communique by the Ministry of Defense Press Service on 30 January; read by announcer]

[Text] The Armenian military forces are trying to take the initiative in the region, regardless of the many losses they suffered in December 1993 and January 1994. They intensely shelled Gadzylar in Kedabekskiy Rayon, (?Zengishakhly) in Agdamskiy Rayon, and Sadarak in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic with artillery

units on 28 January. One person was killed and two others were wounded in (?Zengishakhly).

The Armenian military forces uninterruptedly fired on our positions in Terterskiy, Agdamskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons on 28 and 29 January. Violent clashes took place in those rayons during the past two days. All the enemy attacks were rebuffed. The Armenians lost seven tanks, two infantry combat vehicles, and a mortar unit. A (?ZIL) and a Kamaz vehicle were also destroyed together with their personnel. Azerbaijan's military forces suffered only a few casualties.

Journalists Reportedly Saw Armenian Prisoners

NC2801194694 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1715 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Several local and foreign journalists met with a group of Armenian prisoners of war at the officers' mess today. The Armenians were captured by the Azerbaijani military forces while they transported military equipment, arms, and fuel from Armenia to Kelbadzhar. Defense Ministry representatives Mir-Vahid Feyzullayev and Dzhingiz Mamedov, Foreign Ministry representatives Vagif [name indistinct] and Zabit Tokerly, and Ministry of National Security representative Mir-Salih Akhundov addressed the meeting and briefed the journalists on the documents and maps seized from the prisoners. Later, the prisoners voluntarily addressed the journalists.

Only three of the five prisoners participated in the meeting. Their names are: Ashot Grigoryan, Stepan Gevorgyan, and Razmik Grigoryan. Ashot Grigoryan studied in the Higher Party School in Baku for five years. Gevorgyan has been a military servicemen in the Russian Army [as heard] since 1972. Razmik Grigoryan is a driver. The three prisoners are residents of Leninakan.

Ashot Grigoryan accused the Armenians of maintaining a two-faced policy. He said: We did not wish to fight. However, we were forced to do so. The war [words indistinct]. Consequently, we have had many deserters. The Armenian people took to the streets to voice their opposition against the government on the 17th and 18th of the month [not further specified]. However, the government officials obstructed their demonstration. Our situation is very serious. We do not have electricity. Although casualty reports are concealed from the people, we are aware that many of our troops have been killed.

On his part, Gevorgyan said: Russia supports not the Armenians but the Russian division, which is fighting in that region.

Asked by the journalists to reveal the source that supplies the material and fuel the Armenians need, Gevorgyan said: All that is acquired from Russia. We receive provisions and fuel from [word indistinct]. We acquire arms from Russia.

The journalists asked the prisoners several times when the Armenians will withdraw from Kelbadzhar and Karabakh. The three of them replied in the same way: Kelbadzhar belongs to Azerbaijan. We want to withdraw from that territory. All the Armenians support the idea of withdrawing from Kelbadzhar. However, Karabakh is a different question. Whether that territory belongs to us or to Azerbaijan has not yet been clarified. The historians are occupied with that problem. We have lived in this region. Our history tells us that Karabakh belongs to us.

That indicated the Armenian [words indistinct]. What else can we expect from the Armenians?

Captured Officers Reveal Involvement

NC2901171794 Baku AZERTAC in Englis 1057 GMT 29 Jan 94*

[Text] Baku, January 29 (AZERTAC)—In their report at yesterday's press-conference, a number of Armenian officers serving in the Russian Army adduced facts proving that not the Karabakh's defence forces but the Armenian armed forces were fighting on Azeri territory. The officers have been taken captives, when they tried to convey the 240 people Echmiadzin military unit from the Armenian city of Vardenis to the Azeri district of Kelbajar.

The captive officers (Asjpt Grigoriyan, Stepan Gevorkiyan and Razmik Grigoriyan) [names as received] are residents of the Armenian town of Gyumri (former Leninakan). Trying to prove ?hat they were involved in a military operation for the first time, they said they wee peac?ful quartermasters of the 11233d Unit of the 127th Division of the Russian Army stationed in the town of Gyumri. Another evidence shown to journalists was the order of a commander-in-chief of the Armenian armed forces. The Russian battalion of the 9th Fortified Area marching from Echmiadzin to Kelbajar got an order to guard the road to the gold fields and to wait for the coming of the 7th Fortified Area troops, the document says.

The captives called on their compatriots to stop the war of conquest. This war is necessary to those who are in power in Armenia. The people of Armenia do not want to wage war. According to the officers, hushing people's indignation up, Armenian authorities are ?rying to conceal the truth from the world.

Gasanov Expected To Meet Kozyrev in Moscow 1 Feb

NC3101073194 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov is expected to visit Moscow on 1 February. Circles close to the Republic's leaders have informed a HABER SERVICE NEWS AGENCY correspondent that Gasanov will hold talks

with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The two ministers will exchange views on the forthcoming meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow.

The sources said that Gasanov will demand the unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian military units from Azerbaijan.

In a recent statement to the HABER SERVICE NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative in Moscow said that Azerbaijan's leaders will not agree to hold talks while Armenian military forces remain in Azerbaijan.

Official Spells Out Terms for Settlement

MK2601113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Jan 94 p 4

[Mekhman Gafarly report under the "Talks" rubric: "Armenia and Azerbaijan Presidents' Meeting Postponed. New Date for it Not Defined Yet"]

[Text] The meeting scheduled for 25 January in Moscow between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan and mediated by the Russian president did not take place. According to V. Kazimirov, special representative of the Russian Federation president and head of the Russian peacemaking mission for the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, new dates for the meeting have not been defined yet. The Russian diplomat thinks that "meetings at such a level should be prepared in the most thorough way" and "unless preparations that would ensure a certain success of the summit are complete, it is premature to speak about concrete dates."

Until then, the mediators continue their efforts, the sides voice new proposals on resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Rakhman Mustafazade, an official in the Azerbaijan president's staff, has named the main principles of Baku's approach to this problem. First, the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories and the creation of guarantees for the safe living of the Armenian and Azeri population of Nagorno-Karabakh. Second, the repealing by Yerevan of all illegal constitutional acts and documents that describe Nagorno-Karabakh as belonging to Armenia. Third, the preservation of the cultural appearance of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, i.e., the renouncing by Yerevan of the policy of destruction of monuments of history and culture of the Azerbaijan people in Karabakh. In Mustafazade's view, the Yerevan officials' dragging out of the peace process within the CSCE framework promotes the actual legalization of Armenia's territorial claims.

To all appearances, Azerbaijan will hardly talk at all, having bet on a military solution to the question. The Azeri Army is strong enough today. Besides, Baku feels a weakening of the Armenian Army that began after a series of major defeats. Armenian generals, too, admit this weakening. On the radio 24 January, Major General Arkadiy Ter-Tadevosyan, a directorate chief of Armenia's Defense Ministry, stated that "Today the country is in no position to deliver an appreciable retaliatory strike at Azerbaijan, which has been in recent days increasingly encroaching on Armenia's borders."

Aliyev Wants Troop Withdrawal First

NC2701212194 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Republic President Geydar Aliyev today received the members of the Azerbaijani Cultural Society in Turkey.

[Begin recording] [Kamal Serveroglu] The president opened the meeting by saying that Azerbaijan belongs to all Azerbaijanis, regardless of where they live. He then welcomed the members of the Azerbaijani Cultural Society in Turkey Muhamed Cemberli, Ahmet Karaca, and Mehmet (Mustek). He stressed the importance of the work being done by the Society. [Words indistinct] Geydar Aliyev also noted that the relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey are friendly and fraternal by the will of the two peoples. The Azerbaijani president expressed the conviction that his upcoming visit to Turkey will open a new phase in relations between these two countries.

In expressing full agreement with the president's views, the members of the Azerbaijani Cultural Society in Turkey said that they appreciate Geydar Aliyev's decision to mark the 100th birthday anniversary of Mamet Emin Rasulzade, the founder of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic, at the state level. [passage omitted]

In giving an in-depth briefing to the guests on the political and economic processes in the Republic, President Aliyev particularly dwelled on the harm inflicted by the bloody war being waged against the Armenian aggressors. He explained Azerbaijan's position to achieve peace.

[Geydar Aliyev] We are waging a war against Armenia. The war was not started by us. It was Armenia that started the war against Azerbaijan. We have not occupied even an inch of Armenia's land. But, Armenia has occupied Azerbaijan's lands. Therefore, our war is a just war. We are defending ourselves. We want to liberate our lands. We want to liberate them peacefully, that is, through talks. I have repeatedly said that we want to achieve this peacefully on the sole condition that the Armenian troops leave all the Azerbaijani lands. Once the Armenian troops leave, we could hold other talks.

[Serveroglu] The guests said they share President Geydar Aliyev's views and added that the Azerbaijani Cultural Society in Turkey is taking steps in this direction.

Other issues were also discussed at the end of the meeting.

Vafa Gulizade, state adviser on international affairs, took part in the meeting. [end recording]

Moscow Seen Concerned by Offensive

MK2901105094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Aydyn Mekhtiyev under the "Conflict" rubric: "Baku's Military Successes Concern Russia. Moscow Thinks It Is Time for Azerbaijan To Stop"]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia are scheduled to meet early next week in Moscow. Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has learned this from sources at the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry. It is expected that the negotiators will continue to discuss the Russian plan for a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. So far, the Russian side has not managed to have all parties to the conflict approve the plan: Yerevan and Khankendi (Stepanakert) backed Moscow's initiative in principle, but the Baku authorities set a precondition for approving the peace plan. In particular, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov ruled out a constructive dialogue with the Armenian side until the republic's occupied territories are liberated. It is precisely this demand that caused a postponement of the meeting of the Russian, Azerbaijani, and Armenian presidents scheduled for 25 January. No new date for the summit has so far been announced.

Notably, Moscow's call on the conflicting parties immediately to cease fire along the entire front line came at a time when the Azerbaijani Army regained the initiative for the first time in many months and managed to advance significantly along the northern and southern axes. In January, Azerbaijan reestablished control over settlements in Agdara and Kelbadzhar districts, which had earlier been occupied by Armenian units, and also a highway from Agdara to Ter-Ter and Kelbadzhar. Moreover, according to preliminary reports from the combat zone, in the past few days Azerbaijani troops came close to the Kelbadzhar-Lachin road. In the front's southern sector, an offensive on Fizuli, a district center, continues. To all appearances, Yerevan and Khankendi did not expect a large-scale offensive from the Azerbaijani side. According to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, military units made up primarily of undertrained recruits were urgently moved from Armenia to the combat area. Despite that, the Armenian side continues to retreat.

Azerbaijan's military successes have drastically boosted President Geydar Aliyev's approval rating, and currently it is clear that Aliyev's New Year promise to the nation that all the occupied territories will be liberated within a few months was based on the head of state's firm confidence in the national army's ability to carry out offensive operations. While officials in Moscow and Yerevan keep speculating about how Aliyev managed to strengthen his army within so short a time, the Baku authorities keep silent and do not rush to deny reports carried by a whole range of Russian publications that the bulk of the revitalized army is made up of Afghan mujahidin. Moscow's urgent appeal to stop combat operations has presented the Azerbaijani leader with a difficult dilemma: Either to make concessions and to agree to negotiate with the Armenian side, or to ignore Russian diplomatic pressure. In the former case Aliyev risks losing support of the republic's population; in the latter he might force Moscow to look for different methods of pressure on the current Azerbaijani leadership.

Government Stance on Russian Plan

NC2801165894 Baku AZERTAC in English 1218 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 28 (AZERTAC)—Though the Azeri National Army has succeeded in the war within last weeks, Azerbaijan more often turns to possibility of continuation of talks on resolution of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. This paradoxical aspiration has a logic of its own: the faster the conflict will be settled the fewer people will die. Besides, the Republic will be able to reform the economy and solve the basic social problems.

The Republic authorities policy is based on these factors.? President Aliyev has emphasized the main direction of it at his recent meeting with one of the units of the National Army. According to him, peace could be achieved on condition that Armenian troops withdraw immediately from occupied Azeri territory. This will create a basis for thorough negotiations on resolution of the conflict. The president is sure that cessation of hostilities as well as restoration of relationships between Azerbaijan and Armenia are to be discussed at the talks in order to prevent possibility of a new conflict between the two neighbors in the future.

Meanwhile, Azeri analysts take guesses at reasons for postponement of Moscow negotiations between Azerbaijani and Armenian high officials, which was expected to be held with participation of the Russian president. According to them, a coordinated Russian and Armenian plan on resolution of the problem will be proposed to Azerbaijan. The plan in particular specifies that the Armenian party will withdraw its troops from territory seized beyond Nagorno-Karabakh provided Azerbaijan allows Russian peace-keeping ?roops to be stationed in the war zone. The Minsk Conference of the CSCE is charged to determine exactly the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Though authorities of Azerbaijan have not yet expressed their attitude to this matter, Azerbaijan can hardly accept this plan if Armenians and Russians should propose it. Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that Armenian Armed Forces must be withdrawn without any preliminary terms in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions. In this context, the Azerbaijani party considers recent military success of the National

Army a guarantee of a beginning of Armenian troops withdrawal. As for the status of the conflict region, the Azerbaijani party is ready to discuss this matter within frames of an international organization but considers that the last word must belong to Azerbaijan.

According to another version, spread by some local newspapers with reference to word of Ramiz Rizayev, the plenipotentiary of Azerbaijan in Russia, the Moscow meeting is postponed because a document on complete and unconditional withdrawal of all the Armenian Armed Forces from territory of Azerbaijan has not yet been prepared. The Azeri party will come to the negotiating table as soon as this agreement is signed, the plenipotentiary said. According to his intensive consultations in order to work out this agreement are going on. It is expected that, Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov will soon visit the Russian capital by this reason.

Meanwhile, many analysts stress that the Azerbaijani leadership will ask Russia to mediate between the two sides.

An appeal to ask for mediating effort of only one state may result in serious problem in future, says the opposition, mainly the Popular [People's] Front, meaning that Russia could strengthen its control over the Transcaucasian region. According to them, the political resolution of the conflict must be carried out with assistance of international organization.

New Cease-Fire Proposed

LD3101130194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1134 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan—Russia has proposed a new cease-fire in all areas of Nagorno-Karabakh, lasting for at least 2-3 weeks, from 1 February. A Russian Foreign Ministry source said today that the new Russian proposal was recently passed to President Geydar Aliyev of the Azerbaijan Republic, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of the Republic of Armenia, and to Robert Kocharyan, the Nagorno- Karabakh leader, by Vladimir Kazimirov, special representative of the president of the Russian Federation.

Depending on the replies received additional steps will be taken to bring about an end to the hostilities in Karabakh. A meeting of the warring parties in Moscow this week cannot be ruled out.

Bloody fighting, with fluctuating success, has been taking place around Nagorno-Karabakh since the second half of December last year. Several thousand people have already died as a result. Thousands more have been wounded, mostly among the attackers. The new escalation of hostilities is all the more pointless, the Russian Foreign Ministry source notes, in that the leaders of all the warring parties acknowledge that the conflict cannot be solved by force, and are calling for a political settlement. This relapse into bloodshed, the source considers, is seriously impeding the peacemaking efforts of Russia and international organizations.

Russia is striving, as an intermediary, to bring the warring parties' positions closer together, to persuade them to sign an agreement on ending the armed confrontation as soon as possible, and not to allow the destabilization of the region as a whole. In the second half of December 1993, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held meetings in Moscow with Gasan Gasanov and Vahan Papzyan, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and with Arkadiy Gukasyan, a representative of the Nagorno-Karabakh leadership.

Leaders Said 'Trying To Conceal' Moscow Policy

NC3001181794 Baku TURAN in English 1427 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 29 (TURAN)—Yesterday afternoon, the Milli Mejlis, for the third time over the past two weeks conducted hearings dealing with the January events of 1990 that resulted in the Russian troop invasion of Baku. During those three sessions, it has become abundantly clear that the present leadership and the opposition have different approaches to these matters.

President Aliyev and his team stress that "only the former leaders of Azerbaijan bear the responsibility for bringing Russian forces in Baku which led to over 100 deaths and many hundreds wounded among the peaceful population". In connection with this, the following names were recalled: Abdurahman Vezirov, the former First Secretary of Communist Party of Azerbaijan; Ayaz Mutalibov, ex-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and then Azerbaijani President; and Vagif Huseynov, ex-Chairman of KGB of Azerbaijan.

The opposition deputies see the present leadership as "trying to conceal Moscow's policy towards Azerbaijan". First Deputy Chairman of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan [PFA], Ibrahim Ibrahimli said that "the present-day leadership's hearings are politically motivated". The present-day leadership fights with their political opponents, ex-President Ayaz Mutalibov and the leaders of the PFA.

According to Ibrahimli, "the military June uprising in Ganja in 1993, like the Russian troop invasion into Baku on January 19-20, 1990, is the handiwork of one and the same force". The opposition deputies reminded us that "69 volumes of the inquiry concerning the January events" are in Moscow and Russia is not hurrying to give t?em back. According to the opposition, "one cannot objectively assess the developments of January 20, 1990 without examining those and other missing documents".

No final resolution has been adopted at yesterday's session. The deputies voted for the creation of a special Commission into the Investigation of the Events of

January 20, 1990. Parliamentary hearings dealing with this topic will be continued.

AMOCO Official To Discuss Caspian Exploration

NC3001185094 Baku TURAN in English 1427 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 29 (TURAN)—The President of AMOCO Caspian Sea Petroleum Company Robert Balton arrived in Baku yesterday.

Today he will meet with the leadership of Azerbaijan. Questions of cooperation in oil exploration, and specifically AMOCO's participation in the oil field exploration in the Caspian will be discussed during the sessions.

More than three years have passed since the Azeri Government declared its intent to begin exploration of oil fields with participation of foreign companies. But political instability and the frequent change in political regimes prevented the signing of the contracts.

A representative of one of the oil companies told TURAN that a few weeks ago the members of the oil consortium appealed to the Azeri Government for a final answer concerning the contract. Also, it became known that the companies have given an ultimatum: They will leave Azerbaijan should if they do not have a clear answer by that spring. [sentence as received]

A few days ago, Tim Hartnet, AMOCO's representative in Baku told TURAN that "we are on the eve of signing a contract. We think it will be signed in the near future."

The so-called "Russian factor" prevents an earlier signing of the contract. Russia, which has neither technology nor capital to offer Azerbaijan, nevertheless wants to participate in the distribution of Azeri oil. In November 1993, after the most recent successful offensive of the Armenian army, President Geydar Aliyev invited Russian Secretary for Energy Yuriy Shafranik to Baku to sign an agreement allowing Russian participation in exploration of Azeri oil fields. Baku agreed to give 10 percent of Azerbaijan's share in the exploration project of the Azeri-Chirag oil field to the Russian LUKOIL company.

This gave Azerbaijan a needed break at the front. But the planned December final signing of the contract with LUKOIL did not take place.

At this time, Aliyev visited Paris where he proposed to President Mitterrand that France use its capital in reinvigorating the Azerbaijani economy. At present, representatives of the French Elf oil company is looking into possibilities for participation in the exploration of Azeri oil. Meanwhile, AZADLIG newspaper writes, citing the well-informed sources, that a massive transportation of arms and ammunition from Russia to Armenia is taking place with the intent of further transport to Karabakh. Evidently, on the eve of the signing the contract with the Western oil consortium, the world will soon hear about the next large-scale offensive by the Armenian Army into Azerbaijani territory. Practice has already proved this more than once.

Georgia

Shevardnadze-Yeltsin Summit Scheduled for 3 Feb

LD2801180994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 19 (509) for 28 January 1994 by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is due to arrive in Tbilisi for one day of talks with his Georgian counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze on February 3, a well-informed source told Interfax in Tbilisi. After a private meeting, the two leaders will join their delegations for further talks. Yeltsin will also meet local intellectuals and get involved in a signing ceremony for a package of bilateral agreements with the outline friendship and cooperation treaty being the main one.

The source said work was in progress to put final touches to some 20 draft papers but the two heads of state would sign only those which were ready by February 3.

In the meantime, spokesman for the Transcaucasian Group of Russian Troops Gennadiy Dolgachev told Interfax that the President would probably be accompanied by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. The two countries are also expected to sign an agreement on the status of Russian troops deployed in Georgia and other documents on military cooperation between the two countries.

Up to 5000 policemen will be mobilized to tighten security during Yeltsin's visit to Tbilisi, an Georgian interior ministry spokesman told Interfax. Security forces will also be deployed.

Shevardnadze on 'Normal Relations'

LD3001092894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow January 30 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevarnadze emphasised the importance of the forthcoming visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Georgia scheduled for February 3, saying that the establishment of normal relations with Russia is a matter of vital importance.

During the visit a whole package of documents is expected to be signed. The most important document is, undoubtedly, a treaty on friendship, good-neighbourly relations and cooperation. A number of intergovernmental agreements are expected to be signed, including an agreement on trade and economic cooperation for 1994 and an agreement on free trade between the two

countries. The agreement envisages that trade and economic cooperation between the two countries will be carried out taking into account the development of market relations on the basis of a direct agreement between economic subjects and regardless of their forms of property and subordination.

An agreement on free trade provides for the establishment of a single market of goods, services and work force and creating conditions for the formation of the customs union between the two countries. The agreement outlines main principles of trade regulations between the two countries, including customs duties, and export and import taxes.

Agreements are ready to be signed on such important problems as a status and conditions for the operation of Russian border guard troops on the Georgian territory, principles of cooperation and mutual relations in the sphere of transport, international traffic and merchant navigation, the coordination of the railways, problems of migration and the defence of resettlers' rights.

Comments on Yeltsin's Visit

LD2901162294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Tbilisi January 29 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Georgia will signify the recognition of Georgia's independence.

Speaking at a meeting of heads of cities and districts in Tbilisi on Saturday, Shevardnadze said that "the upcoming visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin will signify the recognition of Georgia's independence."

"The establishment of normal relations with Russia will meet our most vital interests. We will receive the honourable guest as deserved by the president of a great power," Shevardnadze said.

Importance of Visit Stressed

LD2801185994 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Today in the parliament session hall, head of state Eduard Shevardnadze heard information about the measures taken by the law enforcement bodies during the period of the state of emergency in the republic.

Jaba Ioseliani, the chairman of emergency situations; Parliament Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze; Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia; ministers, administrators, and representatives of force departments were present at the session.

The session was conducted in a businesslike and interesting manner. Full information about the session will be broadcast in the near future.

We would like to stress the unanimous opinion of the session participants: That a lot has been done in the republic for establishing order.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] After they [Russian officials] had noticed these tendencies [of improving the criminal situation in Georgia], a decision was made that Russian President Yeltsin visit Georgia in the near future. I would like to say that in ancient Russian-Georgian relations, this event is the most significant one. Russian Emperors used to visit Georgia, our representatives also used to visit Russia, and you know how they would reach Russia, some would fail altogether; Soviet leaders used to visit Georgia and there would be a celebration but then it was still a visit to a colony and a periphery.

Now, the leader of one of the world's greatest countries is going to visit independent Georgia, an independent country. The greatest acknowledgement for Georgia's independence is a visit by the Russian president and his emphasizing this fact.

Georgia has a lot to tell, her needs are plenty, and there are many problems that cannot be resolved without Russia, we have already made sure that they cannot be resolved [without Russia]. Therefore, it is our essential goal to establish good-neighborly, friendly and kind relations with Russia. I am grateful to President Yeltsin for—if I am not mistaken his birthday is on 3 February—having chosen this very day for visiting this friendly country, to meet these friendly people, and greet them the way a representative of a great country should. [end recording]

Shevardnadze on UN Role, No Extra Authorities

NC2801134694 Yerevan SNARK in English 0920 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Tbilisi, January 28 (SNARK)—The parliamentary minority for many times raises the question on the abolition of the additional authorities of the head of the Georgian State.

Speaking to SNARK in his exclusive interview Eduard Shevardnadze said he would say his "yes" to the abolition. "Everything I do is being done for the blossom of Georgia", told he.

Speaking on the Abkhazian problem solution Eduard Shevardnadze said, "I am looking for the solution of session of the UN Security Council. The most important point is the decision the Security Council accepts in the coming future. The perspectives of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict regulation depend upon this decision".

Abkhaz Premier Criticizes Projected Treaty

LD2801201694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Abkhazia's Prime Minister Sokrat Dzhindzholia has declared that a comprehensive Russian-Georgian treaty to be signed in Tbilisi on February 3 runs counter to Moscow's previous pledge not to sign such a document before a full settlement is reached in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

"Georgia takes advantage of such signing today to prepare military actions against Abkhazia and South Ossetia," Dzhindzholia said answering a question from Interfax at a news conference in Sukhumi on Friday.

In his words, Georgia is actively preparing for war, which is evident from recent events on its border with Abkhazia (he may have meant Georgia's attempt to land a force in Abkhazia's Gal region on January 25 - IF).

For this reason, to his judgement, there is nothing more important now than to deploy peace-keepers on the border between Abkhazia and Georgia. In his words, the UN Security Council may pass the final decision on the issue within a day or two.

On the possibility of refugees returning to the republic, Dzhindzholia stressed the need for caring first of all about those who live in Abkhazia now and only then speak about the refugees' return.

He reported that the economic sanctions imposed on Abkhazia by Russia at the end of last September had only been eased rather than drooped altogether. "Paradoxically," Dzhindzholia remarked, "even though Russia signed in Geneva a document with an appeal to the world community to help Abkhazia, it has never lifted its economic sanctions against the republic."

Russian Role as Peacekeeping Force Negated

LD3001215694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] An idea that it would be impossible to establish order in the republic without the use of foreign forces, in particular, Russian troops, has recently taken root among the public. In this connection, the deputy commander in chief of the Russian troops in Transcaucasia General Vasiliy Terchenko has stated the following.

It is totally groundless to talk about this. Russian army units are not intended for this purpose. Moreover, I firmly believe that the Georgian Interior Ministry has enough forces to solve this problem on its own.

On the issue of Russian army units' possible peacekeeping role in the conflict settlement in Abkhazia and the participation of troops under his authority in this operation, the general said the following.

Let us not overtake the events. However, I think that this is how this issue will be decided and our units will be among other Russian troops taking part in it. Therefore, the number of our units in Georgia will increase accordingly. This and the issue of bringing Russian troops [currently] in Abkhazia under our authority must be solved at a governmental level. It will probably be decided during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Georgia.

Paper Publishes Communique of Geneva Talks

AU2801153894 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 21 Jan 94 p 1

["Communique on the Second Round of Negotiations Between the Georgians and Abkhazians in Geneva" signed on 13 January]

[Text] The second round of negotiations on a full-scale regulation of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict took place in Geneva on 11-13 January 1994 under the aegis of the UN and with the assistance of Russia and the participation of representatives of the CSCE and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The negotiations proceeded in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 849 of 9 July 1993, 854 of 6 August 1993, 858 of 24 August 1993, 876 of 9 October 1993, 881 of 4 November 1993, and 892 of 22 December 1993.

It was pointed out that the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding of 1 December 1993 were, in the main, being implemented.

There has been an exchange of prisoners in accordance with the principle "all for all."

Representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have organized the first preparatory trip in order to discuss the possibility of the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons to their permanent places of residence.

The number of international observers in the conflict zone is being increased.

On 15-16 December 1993, a meeting of a group of experts working out recommendations on the political status of Abkhazia was held in Moscow in which representatives of the sides involved in the conflict, the UN, and the Russian Federation and a CSCE observer participated.

At the same time, it was pointed out that, in separate rayons in the conflict zone, armed groups that were not subject to any control had carried out combat actions, which had brought renewed suffering upon a part of the population.

Work has not yet begun on searching for persons missing without trace and reburying the dead.

During the second round of negotiations in Geneva, the sides emphasized that efforts aimed at achieving a full-scale regulation of the conflict as soon as possible should be continued.

1. The sides again confirm that they will fulfill the obligations placed upon them without the use of force and the threat of the use of force against one another.

2. The sides have agreed that the creation of favorable conditions for the further promotion of the process of a political settlement and the practical implementation of the agreements that have been reached will contribute to the implementation of a full-scale operation to maintain peace in Abkhazia. They have appealed to the UN Security Council, requesting that, when it discusses again the activities of the mission of UN observers in Georgia, it widens its mandate accordingly, in particular, that this mission be entrusted with ensuring that there is no resumption of hostilities in the conflict zone. The sides have again stated that they support the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces or other forces sanctioned by the UN in the conflict zone. They have expressed their consent to the use of a Russian Federation military contingent in such forces.

In accordance with a decision of the UN Security Council, following the deployment of additional international observers in the conflict zone and the arrival of peacekeeping forces, the sides will withdraw over the course of five days all armed formations along with their weapons and combat equipment from the Inguri River and other possible areas of active confrontation in the conflict zone that will be determined by the command of the peacekeeping forces and the mission of UN observers in Georgia in coordination with the sides and, at the same time, international observers and peacekeeping forces will enter the zone that has been created.

Volunteer formations and individuals who have come to take part in the conflict are to be disarmed and withdrawn and international observers will be allowed to carry out inspections at crossing points along the Psou River.

The sides request the UN Security Council to strengthen the international civilian presence in the conflict zone, which necessitates the deployment of appropriate civilian specialists there who will contribute to the resolution of the refugee problem and other humanitarian questions.

3. It is the view of the sides that a special voluntary fund created under the aegis of the UN will contribute to the accomplishment of the task of regulating the situation.

4. The sides will continue to elaborate a quadrilateral agreement on the voluntary return and repatriation of refugees and forcibly displaced persons to Abkhazia.

The sides have agreed to create a special commission for refugees that will be made up of representatives of the sides, the UN, and Russia and that will begin work on 25 January 1994.

The sides have agreed to start the process of the gradual return of refugees and forcibly displaced persons to Abkhazia on 10 February and Gali rayon has been named as the first stage [in this process]. The sides will make every effort to ensure the safety of the refugees, forcibly displaced persons, and the personnel taking part in this operation. The Abkhazian side is to bear primary responsibility for receiving and protecting the refugees and forcibly displaced persons and also the aforementioned personnel. In addition, the sides request the UN and the Russian Federation to assist in creating a safe situation, which will facilitate the return of refugees and forcibly displaced persons.

The sides pin their hopes on the effective assistance of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; in particular, on the temporary department of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees beginning work in the conflict zone in the near future.

5. The sides recognize that the main task is to achieve a full-scale political settlement of the conflict and every effort has to be made to this end. They have agreed to continue to discuss the problem of the political status of Abkhazia taking into account the interests of both sides. The next meeting of experts to discuss this question will be held in Moscow on 8 February. Their report will be heard at the next meeting of the sides and sent to the UN and CSCE.

The UN, CSCE, and Russian Federation call upon the sides to be guided by the necessity of protecting the fundamental principles underlying the full-scale regulation of the situation: Protecting the territorial integrity of Georgia and completely safeguarding the interests of the entire multinational population of Abkhazia.

6. The sides have stated that they are interested in creating an international commission to promote economic recovery in Abkhazia with the participation of international and national organizations by 15 February of this year at the latest. Their primary task should be the reconstruction of vitally important installations, transport communications, airports, bridges, and tunnels.

7. The participants in the negotiations have agreed to hold the next meeting on 22 February 1994 either in Moscow or Geneva.

[Signed] On behalf of the Georgian side—J. Ioseliani

On behalf of the Abkhazian side—S. Jinjolia

With the participation of:

E. Brunner (on behalf of the UN); B. Pastukhov (on behalf of the Russian Federation); V. Manno (on behalf of the CSCE).

Armenian Diplomat Discusses Relations, Conflicts

AU2801184094 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 21 Jan 94 p 2

[Interview with Levon Khachatryan, Armenian temporary charge d'affaires in Georgia, by SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA correspondent Inga Abgarova; place and date not given: "Levon Khachatryan: 'I Believe in the Wisdom of Our Two Peoples'"]

[Text] SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA dossier: Levon Khachatryan was born in 1956 in Tbilisi. He graduated from the Faculty of Art at the Art and Theatrical Institute in Yerevan. He worked in the Department for CIS Countries in the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since January 1993, he has been representing the interests of Armenia in Georgia.

[Abgarova]**Sir, what is the specific nature of your work in Georgia?**

[Khachatryan] The fact that, until recently, we were part of the same state is the first thing that leaves its mark on diplomatic relations between our states. Therefore, we have very many similar problems that are of an objective nature. At the same time, it is easy for me to work in Georgia because our peoples are tied by ancient and close bonds of friendship. My one aim is to strengthen those constructive relations that already exist. Unfortunately, the events of recent years have had an effect on these relations. One cannot forget the reaction of Armenians living in Georgia to, let us say, the incorrect policy conducted between one and one-half and two years ago by the former authorities in Georgia regarding all national minorities and Armenians in particular. I am happy that the policy of justice has emerged victorious. The recent measures aimed at restoring order in the Dmanisskiy and Marneulskiy rayons are clear confirmation of this.

[Abgarova]**Traditional relations between our states were built on a mutually beneficial basis. How do matters stand today?**

[Khachatryan] Yes, common sense and a realistic policy have always determined our relations with Georgia. After all, all Armenia's vital communications pass through the territory of Georgia and this is how all cargoes of strategic importance for us are transported. Although there are, of course, problems—I have in mind the explosions along the gas pipelines and the railroad—these can be resolved. Georgia's policy at this stage makes us hope for the better. We hope that Georgia's entry into the CIS will create that basis that, in future, will enable us to resolve all problems between our states. As regards economic relations between our countries, they bear a clear interstate character: The transportation of goods through the territory of Georgia is paid for by Armenia according to universally accepted prices. Of course, the shortage of electric power in Georgia is also having an effect on our lives. However, I repeat that all these problems can be resolved. All Armenia's potential can be useful for Georgia. First and foremost, this concerns shipments to and from Iran and Turkey. The railroad to Turkey runs through Armenia.

[Abgarova]**How do you view the problem of the resolution of the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and Abkhazia?**

[Khachatryan] First of all, I would not like to draw parallels between these conflicts. I have been in Abkhazia several times and I have many friends there. Therefore, I cannot view those events wholly as an impartial observer. Unlike in Abkhazia where autonomy existed in the full sense of this word and where the Abkhazian population, despite being in the minority, was not oppressed in any way, the Armenian people in Nagorno-Karabakh, who form the overwhelming majority of the population, were subjected to terrible suppression. There were no contradictions in Abkhazia that could not have been resolved and, in general, I believe that this conflict was inflated from the start and was somewhat artificial. I believe that this conflict can only be resolved by peaceful means and this is precisely what will happen. The most important thing in Nagorno-Karabakh at the moment is a cease-fire and a halt to the bloodshed. Nagorno-Karabakh's status will be determined by Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia will sign any document in this respect that will suit both sides equally. Of course, both sides will have to seek a compromise solution.

Two Gamsakhurdia Aides Detained in Zugdidi

LD2801192094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1158 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Georgian police have detained two close aides of ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in Zugdidi, a region in the west of that republic. The detainees are Valter Shurgai, the organizer of a rebellion by zviadists in Tbilisi in June of 1992, and Zaur Kobalia, the brother of Loti Kobalia, the commander of troops loyal to Gamsakhurdia.

According to a Georgian Interior Ministry spokesman, the arrested men surrendered arms and forged documents.

Gamsakhurdia committed suicide in a west Georgian village on December 31 of last year.

Mkhedrioni Figure Killed in Bomb Blast

LD2801201794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The Georgian Security Minister told Interfax on Friday that the murder of a Mkhedrioni leader Temur Talakhadze was "a deliberate act". Talakhadze was killed on January 28 afternoon in the city of Rustavi by a bomb placed under an armchair in a barber's shop.

According to sources in the Georgian Security Ministry, the bomb killed another 3 people and wounded several visitors nearby.

According to the ministry, that was not the first attempt to assassinate Talakhadze. Terrorist acts have previously been committed against him, however unsuccessfully.

Failure of Refugee Repatriation Talks Noted

LD2901190994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1727 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—A Georgian high-ranking official has reported the failure of the four-party agreement on the return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia.

The announcement was made by Sandro Kavsadze, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's envoy, after the talks with Abkhazia held at the Russian Foreign Ministry and mediated by a representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees on Friday.

"The Georgian side categorically refuses to differentiate between the refugees as to who took part in the war and who did not because the bloody conflict has involved almost the entire population, including Georgians, Abkhazians and other nations," Kavsadze said.

Further on Returning Refugees

LD2901204494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Negotiators from Georgia, Abkhazia, Russia and the United Nations, meeting in Moscow on Friday, were unable to reach agreement on a plan for bringing refugees back to Abkhazia.

Georgia was represented at the talks, which lasted 16 hours, by Aleksandr Kavsadze, chairman of the Stet Committee on Ethnic Relations and Human Rights, Abkhazia by Andrey Dzhergenia, a special envoy of the parliamentary chairman. The negotiations were mediated by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and a representative from the U.N. High Commission for Refugees.

Dzhergenia and Kavsadze told Interfax the quadrilateral agreement had not been signed due to disagreements on one of its clauses, that on the refugees' safety.

The Abkhazian side insisted that immunity do not apply to those refugees who had fought against "lawful Abkhazian authority." Kavsadze, however, said this formula would always make it difficult for refugees to return home and would legalize ethnic purges, for it "justifies those who fought against the Georgians and represents Georgians as criminals."

Dzhergenia said the plan could begin to be carried out after the agreement was signed, but the date set for it by the communique on the results of Georgian-Abkhazian talks held in Geneva on January 11-13 is February 10.

Kavdsadze believes the plan should start to be put into operation as soon as possible, for he fears the refugees may start coming back by themselves, which, he said, might lead to new bloodshed.

Opposition Organizations Conference Viewed

MK2801134494 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 3

[Report by Yuriy Simonyan under the "Georgia" rubric: "The Opposition Criticizes, Proposes, Demands. Tensions Grow as Yeltsin's Visit to Tbilisi Draws Near"]

[Text] The relative political calm in Tbilisi seems to be ending. The impression is that the government and the opposition "who retired to their corners" are preparing for a fresh "bout." Shortly before Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit, the council of one of the leading socialist parties had formulated and put forward its stance on the Abkhazia problem. As the Social Democrats, for example, see it, there are three ways to regain Abkhazia. First, by Eduard Shevardnadze's pressuring Russia with some help from Western politicians. Second, according to the parliamentary majority, the renunciation of all talks and the use of military force. Third, friendship with Russia and the regaining of Abkhazia using Russia's means. The third option is what constitutes the stance of Social Democrats on this question.

Such a point of view is also held by the majority of political parties that pin certain hopes on the settlement of relations with Russia precisely in connection with the upcoming visit. But the more radical forces in Georgia still remain supporters of a confrontation with Russia. The first among them is perhaps Boris Kakubava, a deputy of parliament, the leader of the organization "Liberation of Abkhazia." During a recent press conference he once again accused the Georgian Government of inaction. He assessed the Geneva talks as extremely negative and called upon the public, primarily refugees from Abkhazia, to stage protest actions against Russia's interference in Georgia's internal affairs in the course of the Abkhazia conflict and to blame Russia for defeat in the war. Irakliy Tsereteli, leader of the "National Independence of Georgia" party, made a similar statement. He thinks that President Yeltsin should know that there are forces in Georgia that are far from delighted with Russian policy toward Georgia. He calls upon the Georgian Government to come forward with a statement on the restoration of Georgia's jurisdiction in Abkhazia and in so-called South Ossetia.

In the meantime, Conservative-Monarchist Party chairman Temur Zhorzholiani declared that he welcomes Boris Yeltsin's visit in every way and that he is awaiting a constructive dialogue of the heads of the two states in whose course both political and economic problems would be settled. Incidentally, the number of such statements is considerably greater because it has finally become clear that Russia cannot be easily pressured, the forces are far from equal, and it is impossible to pass overnight from the sphere of Russian influence into the sphere of Western influence. Thus, the points of view of the government and those of the opposition have grown somewhat closer on this matter.

A conference of mainly opposition political organizations to which were invited representatives of nearly all parties and organizations of the republic, persons prominent in science and culture, was held in parliament hall yesterday. Eduard Shevardnadze, who did not attend, sent a written apology which seemed to have cooled the speakers' aggressive ardor a bit. But there was criticism galore. For example, Republican Ivlian Khaindrava stated that ever since the weakening of the communist regime in Georgia the signs of a power crisis, which was showing in varying degrees of acuteness under the old regime and which is showing under the present regime, have been starkly evident. This is to be explained, according to him, by the lack of a clear separation of powers between the legislative and the executive branches and by their failure to perform their own functions. As a result, virtually unlimited power is concentrated in the hands of one individual. A situation has taken shape in the country in which, according to Khaindrava, all questions starting from the problems of the Tbilisi zoo and ending with Georgia's joining the CIS are solved singlehanded by the head of state.

The speakers of virtually all opposition parties showed solidarity with the Republicans in this regard and in the supposition that the cabinet was unable to solve economic and financial problems and follow a purposeful policy in the area of economic reforms. Trying to explain the reasons for the economic failure during yesterday's parliament session, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsiya asked for another 10 days to study this problem. The time was sufficient, he thought, for a specially created commission to find the reason for the plunging of the coupon.

Many complaints about the head of state and the policy he follows were voiced by People's Fund of Georgia chairman Nodar Natadze. In his opinion, the current leadership had been artificially stoking up the atmosphere and deepening the crisis in which joining the CIS should appear the only way to save Georgia. The same is being done regarding the idea that is floating in the air about joining the ruble zone, which would deprive Georgia of one of the main trappings of an independent state—its own currency. Georgia's course toward Russia, Natadze stated, is nothing but an open recognition of the latter's diktat. But it should be noted that not only criticisms were voiced, but also constructive proposals on overcoming the crisis. Those gathered generally arrived at the conclusion that in order to get out of the situation that had taken shape it was necessary first and foremost to revise downward the powers of the head of state, to increase the role of parliament, and to create a cabinet able to at long last to work out and carry through economic reforms. Tough demands, no doubt about it. It is hard to say if Shevardnadze and the government agree on a compromise. This newly emerging situation too will perhaps become clearer during Boris Yeltsin's visit.

Estonia

Russian Envoy Presents Yeltsin Reply to President

WS3101122294 Tallinn BNS in English 1414 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 29, BNS—Russian Ambassador to Estonia Alexandr Trofimov yesterday delivered to President Lennart Meri Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reply to Meri's letter of Jan. 5.

The president's press service informs that Yeltsin's letter touches on problems which so far haven't found a solution during the Estonian-Russian negotiations, and expresses hope that a mutually acceptable solution will be arrived at in the near future.

This puts back on the agenda an Estonian-Russian summit preparations for which were made last autumn, the president's press service told BNS.

Russia Accepts Estonian Wishes on Troop Schedule

LD2801194094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] As requested by the Estonian delegation, the Russian delegation will hand over a detailed plan for the Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia, from January to August 1994, during the talks round on 1 and 2 [dates as heard] February. This was said by Vasiliy Svirin, leader of the Russian talks delegation.

According to Svirin, the plan details when one or another unit will depart and how many men are in it. Another incident of Russia voluntarily accommodating Estonia's requests will hopefully urge the Estonian delegation toward constructive steps, Svirin said.

As already reported, the Russian side presented a general troop withdrawal schedule to Estonia during the previous round of talks at the end of last year, at Lohusalu in Estonia. In Svirin's opinion Estonia recently tried to conclude a short protocol which covers only a deadline and a schedule for the troop withdrawal instead of a basic agreement on the troop withdrawal and their temporary presence. Svirin emphasized that such an attitude is not acceptable because several issues concerning the Russian troops' presence, withdrawal, and property would thus remain unresolved.

Russia looks kindly, and with readiness to cooperate, on Vaino Reinart's appointment as the new leader of the Estonian delegation, Svirin said. As is known, Reinart claimed on 20 January at the Council of Europe meeting in Strasbourg that Russia [words indistinct] and is not particularly worried about human rights protection. Svirin emphasized that such claims are the fantasies of Estonian politicians' .

This was reported by the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE.

Russian Police Fail To Deliver Full Register

WS3101120394 Tallinn BNS in English 1855 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 28, BNS—The officials of the former Russian police station in Paldiski yesterday handed over to Estonian authorities only part of the documents they held. Under a previous agreement, they were supposed to deliver by Jan. 27 the complete register of the town's residents as well as the car register.

Town secretary Taimi Laar informs that the Russian officials surrendered only the registration forms for new arrivals and departing residents which, however, don't suffice to make up a complete register of the town's population.

Estonian Justice Minister Kaido Kama earlier claimed the register kept by the Russian police cannot be trusted and a new register will have to be made up. Local elections cannot be held in Paldiski until the residents have been registered.

Russian officials don't intend to hand over the car register any time soon. They insist the issue be put on the agenda of talks between the two countries. In Laar's opinion, Russians try to put off handing over the documents because many stolen cars are registered in Paldiski.

Foreign Minister To Sign Partnership Pact 3 Feb

WS3101120194 Tallinn BNS in English 1855 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 28, BNS—Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik starts Feb. 2 a visit to Brussels where he signs the Partnership for Peace agreement at the NATO headquarters on Feb. 3.

Luik is scheduled to meet on Feb. 2 with Hans Van den Broek, the European Union's foreign commissioner, Estonian Ambassador to Brussels Clyde Kull told BNS. The meeting will focus on the mechanism of political dialogue between Estonia and the European Union, Estonia's cooperation with the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other organizations, Estonian-Russian relations and Estonia's participation in NATO.

After signing the Partnership for Peace agreement, Luik will meet with NATO Deputy Secretary General Amadeo de Franchis. The two will jointly address the NATO council.

Mari-Ann Rikken, Foreign Ministry's press secretary, told BNS Luik will probably meet also with the Polish premier in Brussels.

Luik heads from Brussels for Helsinki where he is scheduled to meet with Finnish President Mauno Koivisto and Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto.

Latvia

Birkavs Believes in Continuing Talks With Russia

LD2801140494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Kuchina and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Riga January 28 TASS—Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs believes that talks with Russia should be continued, although his country has already covered its half of the road.

"The limit of our concessions to Russia has been exhausted, but we should continue the talks. There is no other way. The two countries cannot be brought together by military methods," he said in an ITAR-TASS interview.

Responding to the question about the situation of the people, who have no Latvian citizenship (they account for about one third of the population), the prime minister said: "I believe the problem is being artificially kindled. People are looking for a better place to live, and the fact that there is no massive exodus from Latvia is the best proof that no section of the population feels as economically handicapped."

In his opinion, the citizenship problem will be resolved and a corresponding law will be adopted in due time. "Previously we paid no attention to citizenship. Now that the problem is being discussed continually, that rumours begin to circulate about some massive deportations which no one intends to implement, people want to have citizenship as a sort of an anchor. If the problem is settled on a legal basis, then people will feel that they have guarantees for peaceful work," the Latvian prime minister said.

According to Birkavs, there are three ways to normalise the situation. "Very careful naturalisation is the first one. An absolutely free repatriation to the ethnic homeland along with the financial support of this process is the second one. And there is one more way: emigration to third countries, which, of course, will not acquire massive proportions," the prime minister said.

Responding to the question about Latvia's attitude to the partnership for peace programme, the prime minister praised it and added: "The suggested mechanism of a peaceful settlement of conflicts is valuable to us, because the security problem will be an acute one for Latvia during the coming two or three years." He believes that if Latvia joined the programme earlier, it could have counted on NATO support during the recent dramatic aggravation of relations with Russia (it is worth recalling in this connection that the aggravation was the result of an arrest of two Russian generals by Latvian local authorities.)

The head of the Latvian Government believes that "the time has come to analyse military systems of other countries. We were part of the Soviet system long enough and came out from it not with the best of recollections. This is why the orientation towards the NATO structures is obvious, and it will be continued," he said.

Andrejevs-Led Delegation Leaves for Washington

WS3101122194 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Riga, Jan 29, BNS—A Latvian state delegation, led by Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs, left Saturday for Washington to meet with U.S. security-related officials.

The group also includes Saeima (parliament) faction heads, Foreign Ministry's Parliamentary Secretary Martins Virsis and State Secretary Maris Riekstins.

Latvian politicians are scheduled to meet with State Secretary Warren Christopher, his deputy Strobe Talbott, Nick Burn and Anthony Lake, of the National Security Council, and William Perry, the Pentagon under secretary.

Daily Details Ulmanis, Clinton 20 Jan Phone Talk

WS2801165594 Riga DIENA in Latvian 22 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Janis Kulmanis: "Clinton Expresses Support for Latvia"]

[Text] Riga, 21 January— On Thursday [20 January] evening, President of the United States Bill Clinton called Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and, in a conversation which lasted half an hour, expressed support for Latvia's conduct during the 10 January incident [in which two Russian generals were arrested].

G. Ulmanis conveyed to the U.S. President his view of the speech recently delivered by Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev, which showed that the policy of Russia towards the Baltic States had changed. B. Clinton confirmed that the United States has already received an explanation of this speech from Russia—it says A. Kozyrev was misinterpreted. The President of the United States maintained that during his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow, there was no talk of any changes in Russian policy and there was also no previous agreement.

B. Clinton stated that there was much talk in Moscow about the Skrunda radar station. According to G. Ulmanis, B. Clinton's proposition is that delegations of both countries continue to negotiate and seek a compromise on a schedule for the operation of the station on the territory of Latvia.

President B. Clinton pointed out that the issues of human rights and citizenship are by no means linked with the withdrawal of the Russian Army. In his opinion,

the issues of human rights and citizenship will be solved by Latvia, in compliance with CSCE resolutions and recommendations.

G. Ulmanis concluded that his conversation with B. Clinton allows him to think that there really is no agreement between the United States and Russia that could contain a threat to the sovereignty of the Latvian state.

The President of the United States sent his greetings to Latvia and the Latvian people, and his best wishes for their future activities.

G. Ulmanis said that with regard to the recent activities of Russia, he does not foresee any changes for the worse in relations between Latvians and Russians residing on Latvian territory.

Russia Threatens To Cut Natural Gas Deliveries

WS2801161094 Riga DIENA in Latvian 19 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Modris Posse: "Russia Threatens To Cut Natural Gas Deliveries in Half"]

[Text] Riga, 18 Jan—On 17 January, Russia presented an official warning to state joint stock company "Latvijas Gaze [LG]," in which it demanded a cardinal change, to take effect by 1 February, in the system of settling accounts for already-consumed gas, otherwise deliveries will be cut by 50 percent.

As DIENA was told by LG Vice President Girts Stalbovics, gas that has been pumped into the Underground Reservoir at Incukalns (IPGK) in fact belongs to Russia, and Latvia has to pay for its usage.

In summer of last year, the debts were almost paid, but as the heating period of this year has started, the debt to Russia for consumed gas, through the fault of irresponsible debtors, has risen from 500,000 lats on 1 November 1993 to 16 million lats on 16 January. In addition to these debts, there is also a considerably high fine to pay, the amount of which G. Stalbovics did not wish to reveal.

As a result of this, the output of industrial plants which are using gas in their production, will decrease.

Owing to the fact that one of the greatest debtors is the state joint stock company "Latvenergo," the population also will suffer—the enterprise uses primarily gas for heating. Due to Russia's action, it will be forced to change the terms of heat deliveries. Among the biggest debtors, G. Stalbovics also mentioned the municipal heating enterprises and several building administrators.

Until now, Russia was being appeased by promises, said G. Stalbovics. To give Latvia a chance to settle its debts, Russia is ready to take over a part of the IPGK and gas pipeline system. A similar scheme was accepted by Estonia, which thus made itself utterly dependent on Russian conditions for gas deliveries. LG will take pains to pay so much that it will not be forced to sign such an agreement, because Russia can also be dependent on IPGK—if there is any gas damage, the amount of gas pumped into the reservoir would be sufficient to deliver it, within reasonable limits, to Russia as well.

Local Government Stands by Former Leader

WS2801134994 Tallinn BNS in English 1043 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Riga, Jan 28, BNS—The Riga Vidzeme district council overwhelmingly rejected a request by the Latvian Prosecutor's Office to allow prosecute deputy Andrejs Rucs.

The council decided against depriving Rucs of his deputy's immunity.

The group motivated the resolution with its Jan. 17 statement on the correctness of Rucs' actions during the Jan. 10 incident between Latvian authorities and Russian generals.

During the debate, Riga Mayor Andris Teikmanis claimed that only court could decide on the guilt or innocence of Rucs. Teikmanis also urged the Prosecutor's Office and court to investigate into Rucs' actions.

Rucs has said he ordered the detention of the two generals because they threatened to use force to regain the seized buildings.

The investigation materials, however, lack corresponding evidence, senior investigator Biruta Ulpe told BNS.

Rucs' defense attourney Valdis Strauts denies showings of a crime in the case since it was not preliminary planned and "Rucs did all he could to prevent the conflict."

The Vidzeme council of people's deputies is still busy with chairman elections. Among the candidates are Rucs, who was fired under a government resolution, acting Chairwoman Velta Nesaule and Deputy Chairman Karlis Lapins.

As reported, Major General Anatoli Vodopyanov and Major General Nikolai Tailokov were arrested Jan. 10 after Rucs' directive. The Prosecutor's Office launched investigation on the same day for excess of service authority and illegal detention.

Riga Local Government Reelects Rucs

WS2801140694 Tallinn BNS in English 1043 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Riga, Jan 28, BNS—The Riga city Vidzeme district council of people's deputies overwhelmingly reelected Andrejs Rucs as council chairman.

Rucs gathered 53 votes in the ballot, while only 14 deputies supported other candidates.

"Vidzeme district's local government is against the Cabinet—let all Latvia learn it. Let all municipalities work as we work," Rucs exclaimed after the vote was announced.

The conference rejected the request by the Prosecutor's office to nullify Rucs' deputy's immunity. Consequently, Rucs cannot be tried for the Jan. 10 incident with Russian generals.

Rucs described the incident as a political order of the Russian military intelligence service, in an interview with BNS before the vote.

During the session, Rucs reiterated that he "acted correctly to prevent a possible conflict."

Rucs argued that investigator Biruta Ulpe's comments on the lack of evidence on the groundedness of his actions. [sentence as received] Ulpe has not acquainted herself with all the materials, he said.

The council's next session is scheduled for Feb. 11.

Lithuania

President Deems Brussels Trip 'Very Resultful'

WS3101120094 Tallinn BNS in English 1855 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 28, BNS—The visits to Brussels and the Netherlands were "very resultful," Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said on his return to Vilnius Friday [28 January].

The president told reporters at the airport that "we were received well and had interesting discussions at the NATO headquarters."

Brazauskas confirmed reports that NATO experts are scheduled to come to Vilnius next week, to help work out the program of Lithuania's participation in the Partnership for Peace plan. Lithuania signed up for NATO's partnership plan Thursday.

Commenting on his visit to the Netherlands, the president said it was "very necessary" because "very little is known about Lithuania" in that country.

Brazauskas said the Dutch leadership expressed readiness to develop cooperation with Lithuania when they found out about the present state of Lithuania's relations with Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

'Partnership for Peace' Work Group Holds Meeting

WS3101160191 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 2138 GMT 28 Jan 94

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 425]

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 28, ELTA—The first meeting of a working group on "Partnership for Peace" took place in Foreign ministry on Friday [28 January].

The meeting considered arrangements to prepare an individual programme of Lithuania's partnership with NATO and issues connected with the visit of NATO officials next week.

Among other members of the group, Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska, Deputy National Defence Minister Sarunas Vasiliauskas, head of Lithuanian Armed Forces Jonas Andriskevicius participated in the meeting.

Gylys Comments on NATO

LD2901143894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1433 GMT 29 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius January 29 TASS—"The Lithuanian foreign policy is aimed at avoiding creating new tensions," Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys told the newspaper EKHO LITVY (Lithuania's Echo) on Saturday.

"The main task is to prevent the emergence of red lines of confrontation on the map of relations between Lithuania and other states, including Russia. It is necessary to note that Russia's fears connected with the singing by representatives of Lithuania and NATO of an agreement within the context of the Partnership for Peace programme are groundless. The more so because Russia itself is taking an active part in the process of NATO expansion and, probably, will join the all-European security system," the minister said.

Jursenas Praises Agreement

LD2801200894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Ceslovas Jursenas, Chairman of Lithuania's Seimas (parliament) believes that the Partnership for Peace agreement between his country and the North Atlantic Alliance cannot be praised too highly.

He said so in an interview with Interfax on Friday when he commented on the signing of documents on Lithuania's joining the program by President Algirdas Brazauskas in Brussels the day before.

Jursenas did not think that Lithuania would be accepted into NATO soon. He believes that "the two sides should meet each other halfway" if the North Atlantic Alliance was to expand. In his view, NATO itself should be prepared to incorporate Central and East European nations.

On the other hand, Jursenas argued, those who want to join NATO should meet certain requirements. By joining the Partnership for Peace program, Lithuania has made serious commitments.

"This will be a process which can take years, not weeks or months," Jursenas emphasized.

The speaker said that even though Partnership for Peace did not provide any unambiguous guarantees of Lithuania's security by NATO, the very fact of closer cooperation with the North Atlantic Alliance would reassure his country if its independence, sovereignty, and integrity were threatened. This, in turn, would contribute to stability in the Baltic area, Europe, and the world.

"Lithuania's desire to integrate into Europe's political and economic structures and collective security system is in no way hostile to Russia or any other country," Jursenas emphasized, and added that it would be desirable that Lithuania's neighbors also join Partnership for Peace.

"This would be beneficial to the region, the continent, and the world," Jursenas believes.

Official Says Border Talks With Russia Difficult

LD2801180594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Vladislovas Domarkas, Lithuanian first deputy foreign minister stated that the negotiations with Russia on the state borders were very difficult.

According to the deputy minister, he had the impression after yesterday's meeting of experts that Russia was attempting to delay the negotiations. The mood is not very optimistic, Domarkas said in an interview with a Baltic News Service correspondent today before the continuation of the negotiations.

The Lithuanian and Russian commissions on the delimitation and demarcation of the state borders are headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Domarkas and (Gary Chmikhov), the first deputy head of the Kaliningrad region administration. In the meeting in Vilnius, a great deal of attention is being paid to problems of the marine border. The negotiators are today dealing with a project prepared by the Lithuanian Geodesic Service.

Domarkas thinks that disagreements on the marine border are stipulated both by economic interests and by psychological standpoints. According to him, the deposit on the [word indistinct] shelf has influence, too, as both sides have a claim to it. The head of the Lithuanian commission agrees that both sides propose at the negotiations their maximal projects but, according to him, this is customary in [word indistinct] practice.

The Lithuanian side hoped to complete the negotiations in Vilnius on the land state border, but Russian negotiators stated that Moscow had not yet evaluated the previously agreed draft agreement. The next meeting on the Lithuanian and Russian state border should take place in Moscow in a month's time. The negotiators hope that agreements on the borders will be signed and will come into force this year.

Landsbergis Warns Against Kaliningrad Transit

WS2801184494 Tallinn BNS in English 1622 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 28, BNS—Russia has already restored a military union of former Soviet republics without even concealing its expansionistic and imperialistic intents, the leader of the Lithuanian parliament's rightist opposition said.

Vytautas Landsbergis said in a statement circulated Friday that Russia tries to preserve its military bases in Latvia and wants to inveigle Lithuania into a post-Soviet union.

To attain its goals, he said, Russia employs the imaginary need for a huge army in its Kaliningrad region, as well "the weakness and the conformity of the current Lithuanian leadership," and pressures it to sign an agreement on Russian military transit through Lithuanian territory.

The opposition leader said an agreement on military transit would give Russia if a better pretext to interfere, to accuse and to demand "rights" for itself, just like in 1940. Military transit would be a constant threat to Lithuanian independence. Landsbergis said the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party does not have any right to "step over" the June 8, 1992 constitutional act that bars Lithuania from any post-Soviet unions.

Editorial on Russia's Threats, U.S. Role

WS2801140494 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 21 Jan 94 No. 14 p 4

[Editorial: "To Refute, But Not To Retreat"]

[Text] Russia has two current politicians who are being discussed throughout the world. Even President B. Yeltsin, who is still defined as a democrat and whose accomplishments are constantly trumpeted to the world, as though remains in a shadow. Two names are mentioned most often—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Andrey Kozyrev. One can find many common issues in their recent statements: The Russian empire and its eternal interests, the misfortunes and offenses of the Russian-speaking population, blatant visions of the future, and plans to turn neighboring countries into the subordinates of the authoritarian Russia.

On Wednesday [19 January], a two-day meeting ended in Moscow where Russian envoys to the CIS and Baltic states had discussed foreign policy in the "near abroad countries" together with officials from the Russian Foreign Ministry and other institutions. Having not even reached the middle, the meeting became odious and was commented throughout the world, while the reaction of the Baltic states was harsh and angry, which is a rare case. The response of our foreign minister was unbelievably fast, although previously he had required several days for such a move. His reply notes those statements in the speeches of the Russian foreign minister which are unacceptable to Lithuania. A. Kozyrev demonstrates imperial fists quite often, and it would be naive to expect that all

this is done without B. Yeltsin's knowledge. Everyone remembers A. Kozyrev's speech in Stockholm which astonished the world and was revoked later (did the minister joke?!). On Tuesday, he declared that the Russian Army cannot be withdrawn from the CIS states altogether, because enemy forces may penetrate into them.

All three Baltic states assessed the speech of the Russian foreign minister negatively. A. Kozyrev hurried to explain very efficiently that journalists of the official news agency who presented a twisted report to the public were to blame for everything. Such an act is as traditional as is demagogy in politics. Our politicians are equally fond of spreading various "sensational" statements abroad, and later accusing the local press for misinterpreting everything.

It would be too great an historical honor for A. Kozyrev to call him the new Machiavelli of diplomacy. This minister is an actor in the theater of politics, who in a real theater is given only one role—to ask loudly on cue: "What would you like?" The new Russian parliament, where thus far fighting goes on only in the canteen, is likely to dictate the new rules of the game even now. The foreign minister also wants to retain his position. The president wants to find if not a way then at least a path between the right and left "hurrah patriots."

A. Kozyrev's refutations, which Moscow television broadcast so lavishly, may have hardly convinced anyone. We have heard too many promises. However, we have learned that the Russian Army would invade Latvia's territory within 15 minutes in case of necessity. Which part of A. Kozyrev's speech denies this Russian principle? There is always the word in the beginning. However, it would be good if it did not become the deed. The statements and assessments of our politicians are often similar to magicians' incantations that have to be translated into the Lithuanian language. During his visit to Lithuania, Estonian Prime Minister M. Laar put it straight that the external threat forced the Baltic states to unite. Lithuanian and Polish politicians noted at their meeting in Warsaw that there was a shadow of Russia's threat over both countries. It seems that the establishment of facts is a professional prerogative of historians. However, politicians have no foundation: The security concept is nowhere to be seen, and no one knows what the defense doctrine is like... The negotiating delegation [with Russia] was disbanded, and its experts were deemed not politicians. The opposition engages in a passionate exposure of the idleness and lack of competence in the ruling force. The latter intimidates us with plotted coups and later explains that participants of the press conference misunderstood it. Seimas [parliament] deputies seem to have forgotten completely for what they have been elected, because the state's security and its positive development is not a priority to politicians who work at home. The most important issues for them are their own chairs and Seimas' internal problems while explaining political colors rather than the present and future of politics.

It is absolutely clear that A. Kozyrev's refutations do not mean changes in Russian policies. Russia will "defend" its tribesmen, particularly in the Baltic states, and penetrate toward "its interests," while we will dissipate incantations alone. The Estonian legislature proposed that the president and the government express their harsh protest to Russia. We decided to take advantage of a historical precedent. When Russia was trying to defeat the Tartars in the battle of Kulikov, there were two warriors in the beginning—Russians and Tartars. We allowed two ministers—A. Kozyrev and P. Gylys—to fight each other. Will the nations remember them 600 years later as well?

There is no evidence that the Russian foreign minister was encouraged by the U.S. President who had promised to support his country. However, was it not Bill Clinton who "induced" the events in Estonia's Russian-speaking part, when talk about citizenship and pensions emerged again. Was it not he who made the head of the delegation for negotiations with Estonia "sick" when the agreement on the deadline for the Russian Army withdrawal had already been drafted? It is yet unclear what unexpected events this might suggest to Lithuania. It would be good not to miss them while trying to clarify the situation.

Declassification of Soviet-Era Documents Viewed

LD3101074994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1523 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladlas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius January 30 TASS—The Lithuanian Government has adopted a resolution to declassify documents and instructions issued in the Soviet period by state institutions of power, prosecutors' office, courts, all structures of the Lithuanian Communist Party and secret instructions received from former Soviet departments, Lithuanian radio reported on Sunday.

Documents which shall be declassified date back to the period from 1940 to 1941 and from 1944 until March 11, 1990 when the Lithuanian national statehood was restored.

The resolution says that documents containing Lithuanian state secrets and which were listed separately, will not be declassified for some time. Such documents concern former KGB agents, KGB intelligence activities and some data pertaining to communications, geodesy, civil defence and some other spheres.

The majority of documents, numbering around 520,000 and which are no longer secret, are kept in the archives of the former Lithuanian Communist Party. Lithuanian ministries and departments have been instructed to declassify documents in their possession until may 1, 1994 and submit lists of these documents to the board of the Lithuanian central archive.

Declassified documents will be available to anyone who receives a corresponding letter of permission from the organisation to which one belongs.